



ADAM GOPNIK
ON WHAT'S
COOL ABOUT
MORDECAI
RICHLER P.68

**GHETTO
LATTES**
P.82



**Pursuing the
prosecutor
who caused
Zahra Kazemi's
death P.32**

EXCLUSIVE
**Bob Rae on
the small-
minded NDP**
P.22

MACLEAN'S



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THIS WEEK

Contents

14 CAPITAL DIARY

Michael Bloomberg on how clean is second-best and the "anti-Pens Hilton" HP

16 PAUL WELLS

Hager's \$500 million for B.C. port expansion won't be enough to lure the Pacific Rim's lucrative cargo trade

17 ANDREW POTTER

Where will the tests of 2010 escape to when Canada is one big retirement village?

National

22 RAE'S CANADA

Bob Rae speaks out on the Tories and why he left the NDP. "Watch this night and you'll have been unable to avoid the lure of ideology"

24 THE JEWISH VOTE

Will Ignatieff's war on the communist card label supersede to the Tory camp?

26 B.C.'S STREET LEO

Manitoba by day, stainless steel animal by night. Meet the vineyard in street leos

27 A HOTLEY CREW

Brandon's regional state has an unusual feature—several candidates before the court

28 FRIENDLY FIRE

A U.S. pilot opened fire on Canadians in Kandahar, killing one soldier. His commander defends him

World

32 KAZEM'S TORTURER

What Canada has to do to bring Iranian prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi to justice for a brutal murder

34 THE NEW HEBBOLLAN

The 'Party of God' plays Robt Hood in power. But not everyone's welcoming

MACLEAN'S

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 42, OCTOBER 30, 2006 • SINCE 1950

2 From the Editors • 10 News Days

18 Interview: Andrei Ilanov tells to Kenneth Whyte

OCT. 30–NOV. 6, 2006



THE BACK PAGES

66 Books

Adam Gopnik on what makes Maxine Toller cool

72 Blogs

The Top Five blog's authors and books speak to the times

76 Film

Crash director re-teams with Clint for an anti-war epic

78 TV

Almost everything's better in HD, except Barry's fake chat

81 Taste

You're not a chef until you don't suckled piglet

82 Sexes

A large cup, and who's milk—it's the ghaetto latte

84 Help

A Calgary psychic gets right to the souls of the of us

85 Feedback

"Little Kim," Korea's No. 2, has nothing on Dear Leader

87 Recommended List

Cliché-free baseball, Little Children and behind Bob Newhart

88 The End

Since 1999–2006

World (continued)

17 WAITING TO EXPLODE
South Lebanon is mired with tiny antipodean
combats, left by Israel

Business

40 TIES THAT BIND
When former public figures
land in major media con-
glomerates, accountability
starts to get murky

41 LITTLE TOBACCO'S WAR

A Canadian firm battles the
U.S. tobacco settlement and
some states could lose big

42 DRUG-FREE WEB

With fewer U.S. orders
Canada's online pharma-
ceutical trade may be dying

Society

44 COVER STORY THE WEB SUCKS

Pirates, thieves, pedo-
philes and poms. Where
did the Internet, and its
promise to improve our
lives, go wrong?

46 R.I.P. IAN SCOTT

What do you do if you've
mistakenly been reported
dead? Dinner and a movie

Therapies

50 NICHER LEARNING

A U of T grad has his very
own room on campus to
smoke medicinal weed

Reviews

52 THE SOCIAL BEAR

Burns out via a road to
catch each other's moods
for better or worse

Sports

55 BLOODY BRAZIL

Ukrainian fighting is getting
popular in Las Vegas, but
his home is in Rio de Janeiro

News-makers

56 NEWSMAKERS

Intel's disgraced president,
New York's enigmatic lady
and P.C.'s unsung hero

MACLEAN'S.CA

30 Miles Wells Senior columnist Paul Wells blogs on the Liberal leadership race. Stephen Harper's government and everything else happening in the nation's capital. www.macleans.ca/blogs/wells

Weekly update Scott Fitchuk's audiobook gives you the inside take on the daily headlines. www.macleans.ca/fitchuk

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or three-pointers

or million-dollar players. You can't count on umpire's calls or judge's votes.

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flunkies, sweepers, punters, winners, runners or downers. You can't count on

ankles, make songs or that a strike won't end the season early. You can't

count on ice, snow, hail or track conditions. You can't count on

getting the call or going the distance. You can't count on roses

and you can't count on veterans. And let's not even mention golf.

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ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT ON

MAIL BAG

'Students' behaviour toward Melissa O'Neil was cruel. Shame on teachers who made excuses for them.'



SHOOTING. Jewish boys with toy guns were wrong, a reader says. It should've been Arabs.

an adolescent. The "Mel" who sang a capella at the Atlantic Banquet in June 2005 had become Melissa O'Neil, Canadian Idol, upon her return in May 2006. The winning student, athlete, performer and citizen whom we had known for her Grade 10 and 11 years wasn't evident when she was working by herself in the back of the music room. The genuine humility that led her, upon her return, to go out of her way to ensure that her name was not in the files of her classmates probably caused most problems about school. If Melissa had hung out with her old pals when she came back, the novelty of celebrity for her classmates would have worn off in a few days. The recognition received at graduation when she was introduced as Melissa O'Neil, graduate of Lester B. Pearson High School, reflected the genuine warmth and admiration of her classmates and the staff of our school. I will always remember the picture there, wearing her certificate that day. *Jon Nielson, Principal, Lester B. Pearson High School, Calgary*

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY HARRIS

return phone calls? So what if she didn't answer? People always like to explain horrible behaviour—it must be her fault or society's fault or television's fault or the fault of parents who let her do it. Give me a break! And that's a nice problem with insurance. We all learned not to be mean in kindergarten. The students' behaviour was cruel and unacceptable. Shame on them! And shame on the teachers who tried to make excuses for them. *Leslie Tanner, Calgary*

THE LOVE OF PEACE

ALTHOUGH I enjoyed the juxtaposition of two pages of photos celebrating the Muslim holiday of Ramadan and the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah, I must say my indignation at the choice of one photo (Jewish in Picnic, Oct. 9) it was inappropriate to include a picture of Jewish boys playing with toy guns on the Rosh Hashanah page. It is not Jewish boys who grow up in homes where they are encouraged to become violent businessmen or to become members of Al-Qaida. It is not Jews who blow themselves up in crowded streets and markets as a political statement. It is not Jews who fly planes into office buildings full of people. If you felt you needed to include a photo of cops with guns, in all fairness you should have shown one of Arab boys, surrounded by approving parents. But the most appropriate decision would have been for you to choose a beautiful and uplifting photo for the Rosh Hashanah page, many fitting for a Jewish holiday that celebrates a new year and the love of peace. *Gilda Spitz, Toronto, Ont.*

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7 DAYS
of
entertainment

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF BARBRA STREISAND

On Sunday, Streisand, 66, performed a sold-out show in Montreal, her first Canadian concert in 47 years. Early on, she offered a warm welcome to Quebec Premier Jean Charest, whom she mistakenly identified as the prime minister of Canada. The *Fascy Girl* star also singled out Justin Trudeau, an 11-year-old "a very exciting singer" she once spent with his father. Last week, Streisand ruffled New York concert goers by performing a satirical duet with a George W. Bush impersonator.

Good news

There's a limit

To the applause of police officers, Minister Harper's government announced legislation designed to help keep Canada's front-line police officers behind bars. Dubbed the reverse-once-bill, the new law will force anyone convicted of a third violent or sexual offense to construct a judge that he should not be deemed a dangerous offender and locked up indefinitely. As it stands now, a Crown attorney must do the convincing. "Our justice system generally gives second and third chances," the Prime Minister said. "But at some point, governments must draw the line." Cracking down on repeat violent offenders would seem to be a good place to start.

The CAA's left turn

The Canadian Automobile Association has seen the light—and it's green. After years of deflating motorists' against errand environmentalists, the venerable car club is now urging members to drive less because [surprise!] vehicle exhaust contributes to global warming. Things are as simple as this: when an auto association drives right off the road, the CAA's call for car pooling, higher fuel efficiency standards and better infrastructure to ease congestion-induced traffic jams shows an enlightened balance between environmental consciousness and care for the schnock behind the wheel.

Plastic, it's fantastic

Barbie has still got it going on. On Monday, Mattel revealed the apolitical fashion line with happy news: the company's third-quarter sales by sector per cent, projected to reach a 32-week high. In recent years, the Barbie brand has lost significant market share

to newer, edgier ones like Bratz. But in the last period, global sales of Barbie dolls were up one per cent. Company executives attribute renewed interest to a new series of Barbie lines targeting different age groups. Adding to the company's success is the launch of the T.M.X. Ultra-doll. Tickle him and he sings his love and days to the floor laughing—unmistakably, perhaps, by the thought of all the parents who will battle

Bad news

How to lose friends

Staying the course in its path of self-determination, North Korea pressed UN sanctions over its nuclear program "as a declaration of war" and vowed to be preparing a second atomic test. But the peace-loving world can take heart that Kim Jong Il's ongoing defiance is crystallizing danger for the one ally with the clout to soothe—China. By midweek, Beijing had begun in-

ally organize high-level Uighurs, the country's largest minority. Amnesty International believes Uighur dissent is growing, however, Canada's government has done little to secure his release. The Chinese refuse to recognize his Canadian citizenship, and our diplomats have been forced to act on his prison. The lessons learned from what befell Maher Arar in Syria have seemingly already been forgotten.

Office daze

Dissatisfaction at work is becoming a significant mental health issue in this country. More than one million Canadians were dissatisfied with their jobs in 2002 due to factors such as job stress and low income, according to a new Statistics Canada report. Unhappiest at work, the report says, is closely linked to depression. It also influences the number of sick days employees will take. For employees take more than one day off weekly stressed or unfulfilled at work will take, on average, three times as many sick days as those who are satisfied.

Miles to go

With creeping fare prices and ever-changing rules, air travel is becoming ever more complicated. This week, Aeroplan announced that, beginning in 2003, its frequent flyer miles will have an expiry date. Miles not used within seven years will be wiped from a member's account. Also, beginning in July 2003, Aeroplan members who leave their accounts inactive—either adding no redemptions or for more than a year—will have their accounts expire. They can be reactivated, but only for a fee. With security restrictions and onerous rewards programs can continue to seem rather unexciting. ■

FACE OF THE WEEK



QUANTANAMO BAY: 16 Afghan prisoners were released this week.

for a chance to go anywhere anything for me this Christmas.

Siding with monkeys

Officials in the Philippines have put the kibosh on a Democratic plan to control a burgeoning monkey population. Politicians on the island of Mindanao wanted to use a small group of Philippine eagles—also known as the "monkey-eating" bird—and let nature take its course. While an environmental protection agency has rejected the bid to replace our assistance with another one that could be worse. The island, they noted, isn't big enough for the both of them.

spending cargo on its way in and out of North Korea. It was a spot of optimism after a shockingly slow Chinese response, and the last, you'd think, a responsible country would do.

Remember Arar

Ikayuan Galloway spent the last 18 years in a Chinese jail cell. The Burlington, Ont., man, who came to Canada as a refugee in 2000, travelled to Uzbekistan last spring in an effort to get his three children out of China. The Uzbek arrested the 37-year-old and his homeland, where he was sentenced to "no return" for past efforts to pol-

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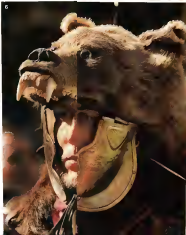
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It may have been 1,500 years since the Roman Empire conquered Dacia, 140 years after the Battle of Hastings, and a mere 200 years after Napoleon's victory over the Prussians, but to thousands of participants in re-enactments last week, it seemed like yesterday.

- [illegible]



CLIPPING FROM THE LEFT AND WIGWAGG FILTERS. CAIL DE MONTAIN-GUTTY IMAGES, CAIL DE MONTAIN-GUTTY IMAGES, SAGNA SAGNA, JUNG WILF, AND WIGWAGG FILTERS

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON AN MP WHO DOESN'T NEED A STYLIST AND THE BATTLE OF THE HOLIDAY CARDS

WILL PM SACRIFICE HIS KIDS FOR NATIONAL UNITY?

For the past month, MPs have had a lot of issues to deal with: Afghanistan, the environment, their Christmas cards. NDP's London Jack Layton and MP wife Olivia Chow's decision to send out a joint card this year initially caused some pressed conversations with the people who handle holiday cards on the Hill and was pointed out there was a president, husband-and-wife team Gennaro and Nina Gennaro out of town and when they were both Tory MPs.



Canadian hockey legend John D'Amico has featured on his cards the work of artists in his

Quebec City riding, the only one in that category to fall into the hands of the Conservatives in the last election. In previous years, her cards have been done by such well-known painters as Lee Archambault.

Gagnon says she would never put a photo of her family on her card. "That's a bit silly." So should Stephen Harper sacrifice his children for the sake of national unity? The PMO says the Harpers' holiday card will "most likely" feature a full family portrait.

DION IS EVERYONE'S SECOND CHOICE

At the final official Liberal leadership debate at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto on the weekend, several hundred people showed up with scraps of paper promising them up if they came to the concert hall and listened. All cheering stopped, though, when they realized there was no money to be had. No one took money either for the money, but then phantom seems to be showing up everywhere in this Liberal contest. After the debate, all four front-runners showed up, but only Bob Rae's people had had the chance to look a tip-and-traveller, in this case the Blue point Oyster Bar and Supper Club. Other organizers seemed happy to have their supporters in places that conjured up images of dead west men. Michael

NOTE TO HOMELESS: sorry

WANT MAKE \$400 a month? No problem. Not if you're homeless. The Ottawa-Carleton Housing Board has decided to stop accepting applications for rental assistance from homeless people. The board says it's not a housing problem, it's a social problem. The board says it's not a housing problem, it's a social problem. The board says it's not a housing problem, it's a social problem.



THE PARTY THAT KEPT GOING: Olive and a happy organizer

Ignatieff's was the best of the four, but so things did at the end of the night, parties from the camp of Rae, Ignatieff and Gerard Kennedy all aside. Stephanie Dion, their second choice, many of them ended up at his house, which lasted for hours after the other venues had locked up for the night.

THE 'ANTI-PARTY' HILTON MP

In an upcoming November, a hot seat of flame magazine dedicated to the most stylish Canadians, there are full-page shots of Chantal Kreviazuk, Avril Lavigne and the Liberal MP for Beauport-Spryfield, Ruby Dhalla. The Ontario parliamentarian was asked because she was "anti-party" for young women. "She's inspiring, well-spoken and stylish," says Flame's beauty editor Julie-Lee. "That's as much of a triple threat as you can get in Parliament," notes Flame's senior fashion editor, Elia Larnacal. The fashion magazine was impressed that Dhalla was so young when she was elected to the House and that her stunning outfits are put together "all on her own with no stylist." In the shot, Dhalla is wearing her own Christian Lacroix shoes and designer jeans. Not to be outdone on the



MP RUBY DHALLA in Flame

dropped them in Quebec women over the summer. His staff just wish they could get hold of them to have an anti-glam treatment done so their candidate shines only in a positive way. ■

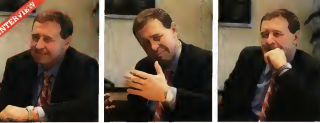
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'Russia ceased to be a democratic country. And some prominent critics of the regime have been beaten or killed.'

FORMER PUTIN ADVISOR ANDREI ILLARIONOV TALKS TO KENNETH WHYTE ABOUT HOW BASIC HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS ARE DENIED IN RUSSIA

Last December, five years after he was appointed chief economic adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Andrei Illarionov resigned. He is openly critical of a country that has taken away basic human rights, shut down the media and, as he says, "ceased to be a democratic country." He was recently named a senior fellow at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity in Washington.

Q Vladimir Putin was somebody who to the West thought we would do business with, we sympathized with him early in the war on terror, we thought he was making progress efforts to open up the Russian economy and democratize the Russian political system. How badly have we misjudged him?

A: One of the rules that I've made is not to comment on personalities, certainly on the personality of my former boss.

Q: Let me ask that question again about Russia, then. We thought Russia was going to open itself up and become a productive member of the G8 and ally in the war on terror. That hasn't happened, at least not to the extent many people expected. Why do you think that is?

A: I think we have to pose a clear distinction between Russia and Russian authorities, Russia and Russian government. So, as the case of Russia as a country, Russia one day, sooner or later, will be in the hands of those who can be considered by the

United States and by other countries of the civilized world as a partner and as an ally. For current authorities, their position is quite different, and it seems to me that some countries [have] started to note that fact. But certainly there are some factors that contributed to the situation—internal, domestic—in Russia, but there were also some, from my point of view, mistakes on the Western side, and several very important opportunities to slow the transformation and slow the movement of Russia in this direction had been missed by G7 countries, over the last several years.

Q: These people didn't talk about the personality of your former boss, but he also perceived the present administration. How do you distinguish between the office and the administration as a whole? Is he not responsible for its direction?

A: Mr. Putin? Certainly, yes. The administration seems to have become much more authoritarian in its second term, less open. Am I correct?

A: You're right in saying that the second term was quite different from the first term, but I would add that the warning point was certainly not in the beginning of the second term. From my point of view, some trends could be noted earlier, but the clear turning point had happened in 1998 during the summit on Mr. [Mikhail] Khodorkovsky and the company Yukos.

Q: From your point of view, as an economic adviser to the Russian government, what

were the mistakes on Yahoo?

A: It's not a mistake, it was clear results on the company, on the best company in the country, and it was a deliberate assault to take assets from this private company and to give [them] to a group of people, private people. It's not nationalization in the strict definition of the term, it is grabbing assets and giving [them] to other people.

Q: From the administration's point of view, why did they do this? Was it simple corruption, or was it in response to perceived domestic political pressures?

A: There are several theories trying to explain what has happened and why it has happened. For me, it's not which particular theory explaining this sounds better—what is important is that it has happened.

Q: And it's continuing to happen. What have you seen in the last two years in Russia that gives you cause for concern?

A: It's a long list. What is the most important in Russia is needed to be a democratic country, owned to be a politically free country. **Q:** But it's still holding elections, and the current administration seems to be quite popular with the Russian people.

A: You know, during the former Soviet Union there were also regular elections, and at that time the governing party—Communist party—was also extremely popular among the electorate.

Q: How are they maintaining their popularity, and how are they manipulating elections?

A: It's a long list of different articles. What's to talk to political analysts, they would provide you with a list of explanations and details how it has been done, but for us it's no doubt that the country's not free anymore.

Q: You say that, and you say it's no longer democratic. What evidence do you have for that?

A: There is no free electoral process, there is no access to the mass media, there is no free mass media, almost no free mass media in the country, there is no independent judiciary, there is no way to express different views. Political parties that are not in favour of the administration have been denied access to the electoral process, and so on and so on. And some of the prominent critics of the regime have been beaten, harassed, or even killed.

Q: Do you feel fortunate to have emerged unscathed from Putin's Russia? You are one of the most prominent critics of the government.

A: I did not leave the country—I do spend some time in Russia.

Q: Do you feel that there's a danger in you being there given that you're known as a major critic of the government?

A: In today's Russia everything can be expected.

Q: What does Russia have to do, what should an administration do, in order to get its economy back on track? I think you're about sixth place in the world right now in terms of GDP per capita, and there are not a lot of positive signs in the economy.

A: I don't think that the main problem in Russia is an economic problem. Certainly we have some issues in economic policy, but our problem—as I said earlier—is that the country is no longer politically free and there is no real democracy. That is much more important than anything else. The people are denied the basic human rights and basic political rights and basic civil rights.

Q: So the economy isn't going to grow and isn't going to improve until you address these fundamental changes?

A: No, the economy's growing pretty fast by international standards—6.5 per cent over the last several years—but the greatest contribution to this growth is extraordinarily high energy prices, so it's very hard to distinguish between contributions from energy prices and from economic policy. We try to distinguish between those two factors, and found energy prices have contributed to approximately 15 percent of GDP.

Q: How deep is the corruption in the Russian political system? It's not just a lack of demonstration or it is going to take a much greater effort in order to kick a trap?

A: It's hard to talk about corruption if the

government is using its resources to grab multi-billion dollar assets from one company and giving [them] to other people. What is it? Is it corruption? And who should address that? It's just not some particular person, it's not some particular people, it's the government itself. If the government has taken the decision to give some particular companies exclusive resources and exclusive access to natural resources, for example to oil fields or the gas fields or the pipelines, what is it?

Q: What the rest of the world—for instance, the rest of the G8—does tonight is make it clear to Russia that it's not happy with these practices. Foreigners are quite friendly toward Russia, at least it has highly critical of some like the war against Putin, for instance.

A: What we have seen in St. Petersburg last July during the G8 summit, and that Europe nor any other corner of the world has raised a voice concerning human rights, political rights, civil freedoms in Russia, nobody has criticized the aggressive policy of Russian authorities toward their neighbors, nobody has raised the issue of blockade against Chechnya or Moldova or Georgia, nobody actually said anything about the IPO of Russia, just before the G8 summit, when many investors at the London Stock Exchange were buying stock assets from Yukos through this IPO. Nobody has taken any steps in this regard.

Q: Why not?

A: As for them, they have been influenced long before, they have been warned many, many times by many, many people. **Q:** All of the above is a problem that you're most aware of, but there are so many other problems and talked about in every country at the G8, so why wouldn't the leaders of those other countries be more vocal? It's certainly in their interest to see Russia deal with its problems.

A: It's better to ask them, not me.

Q: What kind of actions do you think would be most effective with this particular Russian administration?

A: Once again, I'm not advising anybody on the policy toward Russian authorities. Since I know them quite closely and since I was occupying a rather high position in that administration, I don't think that it's quite ethical to disclose that information.

Q: That's fair comment. Do you think there is any chance that a substantial opposition will emerge domestically in Russia?

A: Opposition in Russia does exist.

Q: What does it need to evolve to become more effective?

A: It is not solving the opposition itself. I am not a politician, I'm not a politician.

Q: Is there any hope for more stability be-

cause Russia and its neighbors, particularly Georgia and the Ukraine, at the war level, are among things going to continue to deteriorate?

A: As Russia announced a blockade against Georgia on Monday, Oct. 2—a full blockade, all contracts, not only with electricity, not only with gas, but with all trade flows—and it's actually stopped transportation, and even planes do not fly between Moscow and Tbilisi anymore, and Russia has already started as a first step making a coup against Georgian in Russia. Second, if you are talking about any interaction between energy prices and stability, domestic and international, I would say that higher energy prices contribute greatly to instability, both domestic as well as international.



'It was a clear assault on the company Yukos, a deliberate assault to take assets'

Q: You won't talk about Mr. Putin. Would we not be seeing a different character of government now Putin isn't in charge?

A: Each person has personal individual features, so that is why there is no doubt that Mr. Bush, Jr., is different from Mr. Clinton and even from Mr. Bush, Sr., so, certainly it would be slightly different. In the case of not very well-balanced economies, in new countries like Russia, certainly personal character could have a much stronger impact on the evolution of the state, no doubt. ■

Douglas Coupland's life.

Cultural commentator, Author of *Generation X*, *Microserfs*, *iPod*, *Two-fingered typist*. Writes 2 hours a day and fills the rest with design work, sculpture, TV and film projects. "I've basically filled my life with art school. And besides, there's a lot of remnants of man in a machine."

1. All audio and video files must be transferred to the smartphone before playing. Files can be downloaded on the iPhone, smartphone browser, application or Bluetooth. For a complete list of supported devices the iTunes store www.Music.apple.com.
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While a quarter of our high school students drop out, and a further 25 per cent graduate school without going on, we have a problem. When modern perception of the costs of higher education is greater than their sense of the value that comes from post-secondary skills, we have a problem. As Canadians, we have to strive for better.

During the last federal election campaign I was struck, like many Canadians, by the absence of discussion from the major political parties of Canada's place in the world. It is no secret, no astounding revelation, that our well-being depends on what is happening around us. Our economic health is dependent on our trade with partners across the globe as well as just across the border. Our dilemmas come from every region of the world.

NDP IS COMMITTED TO PROTEST—NOT GOOD GOVERNMENT

As Canadians, we would do well to remember the respect we have gained internationally—our reputation for stability and fairness and as a country that works. But that is not enough. It must be matched by a commitment to our international obligations, and then do more to lead.

A foreign policy borne of an ideology and economic rhetoric is bound to fail—we have heard the reverberations of such failures echo 'round the world. Jean Chrétien was pro-choice Canada and Iraq—not because he was following public opinion, but because he thought the American withdrawal and country to international law. It was a judgment call that was fundamentally sound, reflected our values, and offered our independence voice.

Like all the major problems that face our world, Canada cannot solve environmental degradation and global warming alone. But we should be more of a leader. Signing the Kyoto Protocol was only the first step—accepting targets is one thing, achieving them is another. It would be nice to say that action from Kyoto is unworkable. But, in fact, we know with the current government it is not. Mr. Harper has put us on notice: the Kyoto Protocol is of no importance to him. I disagree. Our environment—our children's future—is not negotiable.

The Conservatives are attempting to take us down paths that do not reflect our strengths as a people to our most pressing challenges. On foreign policy, Canada's voice has gone missing under the Conservatives. Many Canadians support Kyoto, child care, and rights for minorities. They want to see us involving in

education, health care, and research and innovation. Canadian must and deserve an alternative that is logical, generous, dedicated to building prosperity and sharing opportunity. I want to help shape that alternative and get our country back on track.

The sooner, the better.

I have learned a great deal about federalism. I worked on and supported the Meech and Charlottetown accords, but in recent years the experience of working with various struggling to create their own federalism has also deepened my appreciation for what we have achieved in Canada. The Liberal Party of Canada has a fine tradition in building federalism that needs to be remembered and renewed. From Laurier to Martin, Liberals have understood the need to be



Rae claims his political battle scars prove he's a fighter

sensitive to the concerns of Quebec and French Canadians without compromising the ability to relate closely to all the citizens of Canada. Accommodation and respectability, readiness with Aboriginal peoples is a further challenge to which our federal system can and must respond.

There has extraordinary opportunities to serve over the years. Every project has introduced me to more Canadians, taught me more about what is meaningful to us, showed me more about who we are as a people.

From Brent Church to subwood lumber, from terrorism to education, I have been forced to think of personal, workable solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems. Experience is to have always succeeded. I hear, as Teddy Roosevelt once said, the secret of being right is in the secret. But the secret is when you learn how to fight for what you believe in—and how to win. M

Prime Canada in the Balance by Bob Rae, available in bookstores Nov. 4, 2006. Reprinted by permission of McClelland & Stewart Ltd.

THE JEWISH PROBLEM

Parties are fighting for Jewish support—even if it means less than ever

BY JOHN GEDDES • Liberal MP Joins Neville had a tough Thanksgiving break. Home in Winnipeg, he found himself under fire from constituents over Liberal leadership front-runner Michael Ignatieff's statement that an Israeli director had awarded a Nobel Prize to a Jew. He wrote, "I was very sorry, Neville, to not only a Jewish politician whose riding has a sizable Jewish population, she also retains a caucus group called Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel. Asked how many Jewish supporters she thinks the speaker will drive away to the Conservatives, she said it was now only to tell "it's hard to get a reading right now, while I'm caught in the vortex of it," Neville said. "I'm hoping they'll stay with me, but I don't know how many of them will. A good deal will depend on who the leader is."

That hardly sounds like an endorsement of Ignatieff. As it happens, Neville was already a declared leader of long-shot contender Ken Dryden. But her frustrations over Ignatieff's remark was echoed across leader ship camps, and into the ranks of party officials who became neutral in the race. The gravity with which they view the controversy under scores the importance of Jewish organizations, fund-raisers and strategists inside the party. And it reminds Liberals of how Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been audaciously willing to pry Jewish reporters away from their traditional Liberal home. Last week, he didn't honor Ignatieff to shunning Ignatieff—labelling "virtually all" the Liberal leadership hopefuls "anti-Israel."

Liberal opinion is clearly so mixed and so divided that Harper's partisan jibe would have it. Those internal divisions have repeatedly broken through to the surface recently. Liberal MP Irvin Cotler's wife took the party over the Israeli framework, controversial leadership candidate Joe Volpe's strong support for the very best presented the Lebanese war coalition the support of the one-time campaign manager, MP Jim Kimmelman, and Ignatieff's squabbled over the Lebanon issue at their numerous caucus retreats.

Leading Jewish Liberals pointed on Harper's blanket ban on discussion as a chance to reaffirm their pro-Israel bona fides. Neville



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WINTER DRIVING STARTS AT CANADIAN TIRE



NEVILLE (Isidore) worries that Ignatieff's gifts will erode the Liberal's Jewish base



HARPER'S BID TO GET JEWISH LIBERALS TO SWITCH ISN'T JUST OPPORTUNISTIC, IT'S SYSTEMATIC

and Senator David Smith—a veteran Ontario organizer and a key Ignatieff backer—didn't do the Prime Minister "intentionally and unequivocally apologize and retract" the anti-racial charge. But Harper's bid to get Jewish Liberals to switch is not merely opportunistic; it's systematic. He nurtures relationships with Jewish lobby groups. Last summer, the Conservative party highlighted his staunchly pro-Israel stance during the war in Lebanon in a fundraising letter. This week, Harper is slated to speak at an anti-racism dinner held in Toronto by B'Nai B'rith.

The race panic among top Liberals at the prospect of Harper ditching all Jewish support might appear to be disproportionate. After all, Jewish Canadians made up only 1.1 per cent of the population according to the 2001 census. Just four Jewish MPs, all Liberals, were seats last January, down from six in the previous election. Meanwhile, other religious communities are rapidly gaining members and influence; the Muslim share of the

population doubled to two per cent between 1991 and 2001. A handful of Muslim MPs have gained profile in recent months, with Harper even reaching across party lines to appoint Liberal Wajid Khan as his special adviser on South Asia and the Middle East. As well, the closest connection with Jewish fundraising networks may be waning; the recall of political financing rules that shift emphasis away from pursuing large donations from small groups, on to mass appeals to bigger pools of small contributors.

But party organizers continue to regard Jewish support as a major prize. "Jewish people give more on a per person basis than any other group," said one senior Liberal official. And then the two organizations experience real volunteer energy, especially in anti-racism—where Harper is hungry for a breakthrough. But can he drive a wedge between Jewish voters and Liberals easily over anything Neville argues that Liberal have, if anything, grown more sensitive to Israel in recent times—witness the new voting stance adopted at the United Nations after last Martin in late 2004, when Canada's historic alignment with a small group of countries, including the U.S., against what many Jews view as one-sided UN resolutions against Israel.

Senior Liberals were working the phones last week to remind Jewish supporters of that recent history, and the party's older class bonds with their community. While they pleaded privately for calm, Ignatieff accepted an invitation to visit Israel next month in a trip organized by the Canada-Israel Committee. Neville is going, too. She won't be the only Liberal taking the leadership candidate with the propensity for provocative statements down P. Bonito, made any more.

VICTORIA'S SECRET

Hidden by day, pop-up urinals aim to solve the city's No. 1 problem

BY NANCY MACDONALD • In an effort to handle nighttime public urination, Victoria is considering installing urinals that disappear below street level during the day—the very vanguard of public toilets. Unlike the permanent, self-cleaning ones planned for Toronto and Vancouver—enclosed booths with doors that spring open after a certain time has passed—the Urifit system is, essentially, a two-metre high stainless steel cylinder with three slits, each with a scythes arm. By day, the Urifits are lowered below the street, covered up by a marble. They are gone without a trace, too, as they are connected to underground sewage main. Then, at night, triggered by an operator standing nearby, they are hydraulically lifted to urinate level in about two minutes.

Designed by the Dutch company Urifit International in Dordrecht, "best practice for an urban low-nighttime economy", they are positively quaint compared to rival public toilets. Because they have no doors, there's little danger of any unsavoury activity (San Francisco and Seattle's urinals-toilets have been criticised as a sign of decadence and prostitution, an editorial in the Seattle Times even said the urinals "are a disgrace to the city, the city says the five toilets installed in 2004"). And the presence of an attendant nearby to lower them at dusk means there's unlikely a drunken reveller who slumps over in the unit will wake up under the urinal.

The urinals are designed exclusively for men, and most specifically for male drunks. They're the real problem, says Victoria councillor Charlotte Thomas-Jones, who's also dived with the unenviable portfolio of keeping up the city's public sanitation crisis. She went on midnight police ride-alongs to investigate the issue, and found the culprits are rarely homeless people, in first thought.

The 375,000 urinals have been installed across the Netherlands, and have appeared in London and Berlin, but Victoria would be the first North American city to try them out. And for now, at least, there's no worry about equal access, according to Victoria's downtown coordinator, Mike Hill. "We're not trying to provide a service—and we're not trying to stop people from urinating on the street. And women just don't have that problem behaviour now."

Will voters be tough on crime?

Three of Brandon's six mayoral hopefuls are fighting criminal charges

BY NANCY MACDONALD • "My criminal record is clean," laughs Beth Seale, who is running for mayor of Brandon, Man., on Oct. 25. There's a reason Seale is so forthcoming about her history: Three of her five fellow candidates are charged by criminal charges. Brandon is Manitoba's second city, an unpretentious, conservative burg of 42,000. A hog-slaughtering plant is among the city's biggest employers; the average house sells for



THE RACE FOR CITY HALL'S TOP JOB HAS BEEN 'OFF THE WALL'

\$150,000. The place is still small enough, Brandonites say, that everybody knows everybody. So everyone knows that Nicholas Avlonitis, the youngest mayoral hopeful, has been charged with assaulting a fellow candidate, Desvryn Ross. And that Ross, a disabled lawyer, is fighting a conviction for two counts of fraud. And that a warrant was recently issued for the arrest

of election back in the '90s. He says he won't answer Avlonitis' extended bid to run for mayor. "My son and I went over on a Saturday, and Brenda came out and helped us put the signs in the ground. Nicky dropped the first sign, destroying it. He was loud, yelling profanities. He showed my son, Deacon, who is 10. Then he threatened to kill me if I ever came back." Avlonitis, who is scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 16, denies he did not touch Ross or his son, and turned no threats. "Desvryn Ross is a criminal," he says. "The fact that the city would even entertain his candidacy is ridiculous." (There is no provision under Manitoba law that disqualifies Ross from running.)

As Ross tells it, he was mired in financial strain by a single mom. Roguish-looking and silver-tongued, he left Brandon to study law in Dalhousie. The first morning he, Ross was a top local lawyer, had an exclusive Brandon address, and a weekly column in the Brandon Star. Then, in 1995, he was convicted of two counts of fraud arising out of a failed Perkins restaurant venture, and served four months

in the Brandon Correctional Centre. In 2006, he applied to have his conviction reviewed, based on evidence uncovered after the fact. His case is ongoing.

So is Deborah Bochenman's. Her legal woes stem from an alleged fight with her neighbour over the ownership of a puppy. A year earlier he was arrested, says the 50-year-old elementary school teacher on the Bird-

offridge candidate Deborah Bochenman—the sister of former Ottawa Senators captain Lucie Bochenman—for failing to appear in court on charges of break and enter and assault. "It's embarrassing," says Ross, owner of Front Row Media Enterprises, of his run-in with Avlonitis, 26, a self-employed contractor. "But it's part of the soap opera that is this election."

According to Ross, 45, Avlonitis's mother, Brenda, had allowed him to put up signs for her lawn over the Brandon Development (Ross was once one of Brandon's few Liberals when Brenda Avlonitis ran for the party in a previous

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Second profile in a series of six

'HE WAS 100% SURE'

The U.S. pilot who killed Mark Graham was no cowboy, says his boss

BY MICHAEL FREICHAU • The attack was typical 5-10 Warburg, swift and precise. Within seconds, 30 soldiers were added with shrapnel from a seven-barrel Gatling, and one—Pvt. Mark Graham, a former Olympic sprinter—was dead. Two months later, investigators are still trying to figure out what went wrong. It's a case of a former Olympic sprinter who was killed by a U.S. fighter pilot, a case that has become a symbol of the chaos of Afghanistan. It's a case that has become a symbol of the chaos of Afghanistan.

less stationed at Bagram Airfield—including the anonymous man who killed the Graham, a 19-year-old former track star who, before enlisting, represented Canada at the 1996 Barcelona Summer Games. Unlike Maj. Schmidt, who was flying his F-16 back to base when he landed away, the pilot involved in the Sept. 4 incident never paid in close air support, which means someone on the ground was directing him toward a target. "He had coordinates," Johnson says. "He was 100 per cent sure. Obviously, the law was a friendly position he

the reports not answer some of the other burning questions. 'Who called in the air strike?' Was it a Canadian? And why would the pilot pull the trigger if he was not completely sure who he was shooting at? There are some circumstances that could have led any of the best pilots to do the same thing he did," the colonel says. "But I can't talk about those circumstances. I really can't."

What he will say is that the pilot, whose identity remains secret, is "considered the crown of the group," a proud member of the 1st Fighter Squadron based at Germany's Spangdahlem Air Base. He was anxious to help his fellow pilots, Col. Johnson says, that he wanted his right to remain silent. "He was one of the most meticulous pilots I've ever flown with, and I've been in the Air Force for 27 years," he says. "His personality was flawless, with the exception of this one incident. So when I found out who it was, all the questions that you're asking also popped into my head. How could this happen to him?"

Death aside, what made the 2002 friendly fire incident such a media event was not so much the bombing, but Maj. Schmidt's unwillingness to accept even a shred of responsibility. Relatives of the dead soldiers wanted an apology, not a court martial. In this case, the wounded pilot has yet to approach Pte. Graham's grieving family. This might change, however, depending on the outcome of the four separate investigations now underway, including a joint U.S.-Canada probe that will determine who is to blame and whether criminal charges are appropriate. "Even though he did not personally cause the fatality, he is extremely remorseful," Johnson says. "Like life, life has changed forever." The morning after the shoot-down, the colonel saw his friend near the bathroom. He said, "That man will never take a shower again," he recalls. "His gut and stomach is very evident, and he will live with this incident for a long time. He'll have nightmares for years, and only time—and maybe not even then—will relieve that." ■



PTE. GRAHAM, seen as an Olympic sprinter, was a victim of friendly fire near Kandahar

The comparison is inevitable. Just like another top U.S. pilot known for a model when Maj. Henry "Psycho" Schmidt famously bombed and killed four Taliban soldiers paratroopers in April 2002, he ignored a "hold fire" order and, as his commander later concluded, "used the inherent right of self-defense as an excuse to wage his own war." Col. Anthony D. Johnson knows all about the Schmidt case. For awhile, it was the only thing his fighter pilots were talking about. "I can guarantee you—and I can say without a doubt—that they will not find, within 100 miles, that there was any danger for regulations, any reckless abandonment, and so cowboy pilots," he says. "It can guarantee you that."

Accompanied by the 410th Expeditionary Operations Group, Col. Johnson says, upon last month, the men in charge of 5-10 pi

would not have fired upon it. That he was convinced, based on the information he had, that he was over-riding the target that he had been assigned." Most pilots have said the Warburg was ordered to attack a Taliban position marked by a burning fire, but—in a tragic coincidence—the pilot misinterpreted a Canadian radio fire not from the target. Johnson, careful not to jeopardize the ongoing investigations, would neither confirm



THE ELEPHANT IN THE DEBATING ROOM

"We didn't talk about the reform of the Liberal party. Our claim was to be the government again!" —Federal Liberal leadership hope to David Kennedy expressing his frustration with a recent debate among candidates in Toronto on Sunday that saw front-runner Michael Ignatieff leading off attacks from other candidates for ending the health bombing of Canada's "war crime" on a Greater Falls school walk.

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THE TERROR OF TEHRAN

How can Canada bring Saeed Mortazavi to trial for the Kazemi murder?

BY LURA CH. SAVAGE • Hotspring, Ontario, a former Iranian civil servant and businessman who now lives outside Toronto, spent eight months in Tehran prison starting in June 1993. He was beaten until his kidneys failed, put through two mock hangings, and forced to eat human waste. "I tried to kill myself in

cells. "They had a square on the wall, but there is not enough room in a four-by-eight solitary confinement cell to run and hit the concrete hard enough to give yourself a concussion." After his release, he encountered one of his torturers. "Of all the people you met while you were our guest," the man boasted, "which had a softer hand?" Bouzani and he had no idea, since he had been blindfolded. "I always mean we soften," replied the youthful-looking man with glasses. Bouzani recognized him as one of the most feared men in Iran: Saeed Mozaffari, now the public prosecutor of Tehran.

Only 16 years old, Morozov has a reputation worthy of this Dickinson name. In his revolutionary legal system, he acts as interrogator, prosecutor, judge and jury in one person. He has been accused of having orchestrated the mass incursions of human rights activists, journalists, political dissidents and students. His specialty is threats and confessions. A 2004 report by Human Rights Watch declared, "For virtually half more responsibility for turning the judiciary into a tool of the original political crackdown than Soviet Morozov." However, cannot seek redress because Morozov is at this judiciary "I don't have any need for the law," he once told a prisoner's family, according to a report. "I am the law." But that day in June 2001, when he added blacked photographs, mistal Zahra Kassar in his mirror of victims, he created a rare opening for accountability. If the Harper government, unlike its predecessor,

Under duress, Karam, an Iranian Canadian who spent time in Montreal's "ghost" in 2003, didn't live well about it. After Montaraz had her arrest and for taking pictures of a jail outside two women, she endured three days of interrogations, some of which were personally overseen by Montaraz herself. She emerged from prison with positive bruises, a broken nose, broken fingers, crushed toes and nails, yellowed damage indicative of "very brutal rape," a fractured skull, and broken

HARPER AND MACKAY TALKED TOUGH LAST JUNE, BUT THERE'S BEEN PRECIOUS LITTLE MOVEMENT SINCE THEN



agencies from which are eventually denied. The Morazanista is now far from being the Criminal Code, since Canadian courts have jurisdiction to prosecute terrorists even if the terrorist concerned is outside Canada. And countries that have ratified the UN Convention Against Torture are required to either prosecute suspected terrorists on their soil, or extradite them. If Canada could build a case against Morazanista, it can request he be arrested and extradited. Assuming Iran releases Morazanista, he will have to stay in exile, or, can the risk of immediate arrest if he leaves the country.

This past June, the Harper government talked tough about moving against Morazanista. Foreign Minister Peter MacKay had arrived in Geneva for a meeting of the newly formed United Nations Human Rights Coun-



ZARRA KAZEMI died after being orally interrogated by Mortenson and others.

To the disgust of many participants, Montezuma was arrested. Tipped off that the inmates would travel home through Frankfurt, and prepared by British agents, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mackay announced that they had asked German authorities to arrest him. Harper went so far as to say he wanted Montezuma tried for "war crimes."

Such legal manoeuvrings require massive preparations, thought, and Ottawa was nowhere near ready to make good on the threats. Complicating matters was the fact that Montezuma did not travel through Ger-

mean, he was brought in and from Switzerland. But also, as Mackay's office later submitted, the government had not laid the legal groundwork needed for an extradition request. A Harper spokesman was left to backpedal, saying the PM had spoken "loosely." And Mackay was left shaking a shears-cut fist. "Mark my words, that individual will notice. If there is any way Canada can bring that person to justice, we'll do it."

Months have passed, and so far the threats have amounted to little more than talk. John Terry, the lawyer for Kannon's son, Stephen Bushner, says he has been given no confirma-

Two years later, barely 16 years old, he became the judge of Tehran court No. 1430, known as "the green court," where he served the role "Bench of the Press." Montazeri dictated all an obscure 1999 statute originally written to prevent criminal abuse from accumulating to keep press and passivity, and used it to persecute journalists. An estimated 100 newspapers and journals were closed, and their staff imprisoned. "I have talked to former prisoners who were directly threatened by him, and whose interrogations and they were carrying orders from Montazeri," Ghazvini says. "These people who have been found into making false confessions through threats, intimidation, threats, and physical abuse by his underlings."

According to a Human Rights Watch report, Iranian authorities "begin assembling sensitive cases to his court, aware in the knowledge that they would end in a conviction, regardless of the quality of the evidence against the accused." Witnesses have alleged that, while on the bench, Montazeri would openly confer by phone with government officials about how to handle individual cases. In 2003, he ordered the arrest of three Iranian pollsters for trying, after they conducted a poll showing that 74 per cent of Iranians favored re-constituting ties with the U.S. In May 2001, he was appointed the public prosecutor in Tehran, just a month before Khatami's arrest. In the fall of 2004, Montazeri imprisoned some 20 Iranian bloggers and broadcast their forced confessions on TV. They later told a presidential commission that they endured physical and psychological in ruins. The tactics work. "The press prepares their stage based on Judge Montazeri's orders, because they are scared of him," Iranian ex-leader of parliament Mostafa Ameni wrote in July 2001.

Montazeri's involvement in Khatami's case fits the pattern. The New Haven, Conn.-based Iran Human Rights Documentation Center recently released a detailed report on the available evidence, including translations of original documents. Khatami was brought into Iran at 4 a.m. on June 23, 2001, and between 2002 that night and 2:10 a.m., he was interrogated by Montazeri and a deputy. Prison records show that during his encounter with Montazeri's crew, she was beaten and her nose and her fingers and toes were broken and crushed.

After the interrogations, Montazeri issued a warrant for her arrest on charges of espionage. Maryam told Montazeri put it to him this way: "He said, 'every game has its rules and that lady did not play by the rules.'" By then he knew she was confident in the question of her authority. "As Khatami intended to vent and fight, it seems being legally designed between prison cells, like

mountain bar for more interrogation by various ministries rather than provide medical treatment. As a result of her injuries, Khatami lapsed into a coma on June 23, and her life support was removed 11 days later.

Montazeri's actions have been investigated by a presidential commission, launched within days of Khatami's death by then-actress president Mohammad Khatami. It concluded Khatami was killed by a blow to the skull, and it also recommended more investigation of the case eventually assigned to Montazeri, who relinquished it only under pressure. A subsequent Iranian parliamentary investigation published its findings in October 2005 but was also discouraged. It called Montazeri's decision to arrest Khatami "judicial" and "not permissible" since there was no evidence she had committed a crime, and the intelligence ministry did not consider her a spy. The parliament's very commission also found that Montazeri tried to cover up what happened by ordering a prison official to write a letter stating that Khatami had suffered a stroke. As well, the commission found forgery and traced signatures in the prison log—and it also reprimanded Montazeri for trying to derail the investigation.

In fact, a newspaper editor later came forward to say Montazeri personally ordered her and others not to cover the commission's report. An official in the press ministry who issued Khatami's work permit, Mahmoud Hossein Khatami, told the commission that he refused to return him with imprisonment if he did not put out a press release stating that Khatami died of a stroke. While the trial of a low-level official was official for the "secret government" of Khatami got underway (he was eventually acquitted), Montazeri ordered the dismissal of two newspapers that reported on the proceedings.

Two years later, not only Montazeri getting away with it all, but under the conservative presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the prosecutor's hand has only strengthened. In August, the government asked Montazeri to clamp down on the press after newspaper editors accused Ahmadinejad of financial wrongdoing. And the judiciary was reportedly given a newly created force of 800 "judicial police" to enforce orders. Dan Dugas, a spokesman for MacKay, says it returns the Harper government's position to go after Montazeri. "We would like him to answer for all aspects of his involvement in the human rights and murder. We would like every opportunity to do so," but if it's not an exception any admission, Ottawa's opportunities will be done it decides to close it. ■

ON THE WEB For more on this, check out our blog at www.iranwatch.ca/en/2006/09/09



THE GROUP IS MOVING ACROSS RELIGIOUS LINES

PARTY (OF GOD) TIME

Hezbollah is rebuilding Lebanon. Not everyone is happy about that.

BY MARTIN PATRICKSON • To the truly cynical, the destruction of Beirut's Dahiyeh suburb was Hezbollah's windfall—God's gift to the Party of God. A primary weapon of Israel's inner march is long the killing, the suburb had found hundreds of casualties, with some 5,000 homes every left homeless. Following the ceasefire, Dahiyeh was a heap of misery and smoldering rubble; the sadness and ruined landscape remain, but are tempered with a sense of new optimism. Things are moving along, and in Dahiyeh as in the rest of the country affected by Israeli bombs, it is faith in large part to Hezbollah.

Hezbollah contractors shored debris into Hezbollah's camp and built a Hezbollah-assisted impact against war and built the US\$12,000 walk to anyone who lost their. Hezbollah-affiliated architects and engineers plan new houses and infrastructure. Hezbollah doesn't give out free medication, and Hezbollah

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It tooks people hot needs to some 15,000 people every day in Dajiyeh alone. When the Lebanese government recently (and, for most Lebanese, belatedly) announced payment of US\$15,000 to owners of homes destroyed during the war, Hizbollah's secretary damned the payment insufficient, and promised to top-up each name as "Hizbollah is an NGO," says Bilal Natt, a member of Hizbollah's central council, without even a whiff of irony. "Hizbollah is uniting all of Lebanon, and thus Lebanon's stability is in good. We paid for Christians, the Sunnis, for all the religions, in the name of Lebanon, whether you lost an apartment or your car."

Since its inception in 1975, the Party of God has been the party of Shiite Muslims, to the exclusion of everyone else. The recent war with Israel, however, has allowed the group to establish a popular (if Lebanese) image. That Hizbollah is able to do so is due in large part to political and media savvy, not to mention the Lebanese government's perceived poor war tactics. The group that once killed mapped journalists now welcomes them in a media room at the heart of Dajiyeh, from which it gives guided tours. Inside, a display of camouflaged—Camouflaged like a black-and-white tiger with golden fur stripes, Israeli snipers often say—bombs or writing that says, a Hizbollah fighter blocking a snail with his chest to Lebanon's population now on behind him—speaks to the group's core beliefs: America is violent and untrustworthy, Israel is evil and cowardly, and Hizbollah is the only group that can do anything about it.

Coupled with Hizbollah's new-found appreciation of the media is the group's desire for political alliances with former enemies. Hizbollah's war has forged a truce with Michael Hane, a Christian MP whom Hizbollah would like to see as prime minister. Hizbollah also garnered the support of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and the Communist party, two

'THEY SAY IT'S A "DIVINE VICTORY," BUT WHAT KIND IS THAT? OUR ECONOMY WENT BACK 25 YEARS.'

moderately secular political groups normally put off by Hizbollah's single religious identity. However, the crash of Hizbollah's popstar drive, according to professor Abdallah Ibrahim, remains inside the wreckage of war. "It's very important for Hizbollah to maintain that Jesus Hood image," says Ibrahim, who teaches Arabic cultural history at the American University of Beirut. "When they started they were a religious party, but they've realized that, to get support from Lebanon as a whole, they have to promote themselves as defenders of the country and to rely on the religious side."

Despite dissent against Hizbollah among government Lebanese, particularly Shiites, it remains victorious. One of the few notable exceptions is Sayed Ali Akbar, the Shiite leader of the south Lebanese city of Tyre. He once called Hizbollah "the party of Satan" and was openly critical of Hizbollah's kidnapping of Israeli soldiers, which touched off the war (although he is effective in his praise for Hizbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, a former cleric, who he finds formidable "intelligence and skill as a leader"). Ali-Akbar questions Hizbollah's mass popularity, instead suggesting the Hizbollah needs to reduce its role as the leader, but certainly not change, Shiite core. He blames Hizbollah, not Israel, for the "repugnant and avoid-

HIZBOLLAH assassins showed skulls, while Hizbollah assassins showed skulls.

able" war, which he says served only to devastate the Lebanese people. He says it all with unending serenity, given that he lives and preaches the Hizbollah's message of jihad—and despite numerous injuries against his life.

On the streets of Beirut, meanwhile, blame (if measured) remains of Hizbollah is heard on every corner. The group is irrevocably discredited with a mixture of awe for surviving where all other Arabs have failed, and disgust at Hizbollah's healthy belief in its own popstar. "They say it's a 'divine victory,' but what kind of f---ed up victory is that?" asks Salah Jureh, 31, as he spits out a round of cigarettes and a few puffs. "Our economy went back 25 years. The only thing the ground of it is that Israel now knows it can't get in here easily. And Hizbollah does so many good things for its community."

Does this mean any necessary victory, however, among some Shiites. Lara, who didn't use her last name, was in her Dajiyeh apartment on July 12 when the bombs began falling. She had to bring her brother to the hospital after he was hit with exploding glass. She returned the next day only to find the building locks changed. "The convicted Hizbollah changed the locks, and that they came into my house," Lara says. The house was nearly completely destroyed, but her family did not receive any compensation. Lara is sure it had to do with the presence of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri and his family, who were in the house at the time. In 2005, around the house.

Of course, the supposed unity between Hizbollah and the rest of the country may collapse under the weight of Lebanon's war-torn economy. Despite the government's (and Hizbollah's) best efforts, bridges and roads are still out and crops across south Lebanon are going unharvested, thanks to the painfully slow process of ridding the countryside of Israeli bombers. "Obviously you have some Sunnis saying the Shiites are responsible for the war," says professor Ibrahim. "You didn't hear that when it was happening." Despite talk of unity, it seems Lebanon could already be heading to its usual chaotic sectarian state. ■



THAILAND: PICKNICKING AND FLAMES DON'T MIX
 Thai's largest Bangkok is now a hotbed of political protest. More than 100,000 people a day are visiting the airport, which opened last month, just to have a look around. Officials are concerned that the massive terminal is being built with steel from people who outsource actual building. "We invited visitors to familiarize themselves with the new airport," says an airport executive. "But it's no longer here [referring to it's a picnic]."

Small, deadly, and everywhere

In south Lebanon, NGOs are cleaning up a million unexploded bombloms

BY MARTIN PATRICKS • In a desolate corner in al-Bith, a suburb of Tyre, eight flak-jacketed men walk in slow lockstep, their eyes combed the ground. Then, their heads low hanging and halting with their, are a constant obstacle. The men must grope their heads and knees and crawl underneath, their eyes fixed on the thick layer of leaves, grass and rocks beneath them. They are looking far what are referred to as "mines," roughly the size of a milk shaker and fitted with a loop of white cloth that they happen to touch one the wrong way, they and those around them will be for a long time or die.

The men are calm as can be. Every hour, they break for prayer.

This meticulous search is a common sight through out south Lebanon this as days. Despite the recent, particularly in its final days, the Israel Defense Forces dropped an unrelenting number of "bombloms" over much of the south. Packed into rocks or artillery shells, or dropped from planes in containers, the bombloms are intended to spread like hail and blow up upon impact. In each a 40 g of RDX, a high explosive that can permeate up to four centimeters of steel, or out through three inches of concrete in a row. They land where you don't expect them to, and some do not explode. "They look small, funny and innocent, but they're not," says Magnus Rasmussen, a leading Israeli who figures he's destroyed about 1,000 of the things during his 36-year career. "Personally, I wouldn't want to survive, because the arms will be gone, and the face will be damaged."

Rasmussen is a traditional field manager with the Mine Action Group, one of NGOs contracted by the UN to help remove the bombloms—as well as any other unexploded ordnance they happen to find. Assuming all goes well, the process will take 15 months. It is a tedious task, how many people were killed or injured by bombloms when they were first dropped. But their failure rate was

very high from 1990-95 percent, and officials with the UN's Mine Action Coordination Centre estimate there are some one million landmines in south Lebanon—or roughly 15 for each person living in the region. Often, the bombloms get caught in trees, and in al-Bith—where most of Lebanon's major roads serve as crop fields for those four hectares of farmland being searched—Rasmussen estimates that more than 100,000 are still in the ground.

The Israeli government, which says its use of bombloms complies with international law, stated that the vast majority of the bombloms were dropped in the last three



DEADLY DUTY: A person in that will take 15 months

days of the war in an attempt to die out a tougher UN resolution against Hizbollah. Though Israel provided maps of potentially affected areas, these are imprecisely vague. When asked political questions, Rasmussen dismisses them with a wave of his thick fingers. "The bombloms are here now, so we deal with it," he says, starting before one half-dressed that morning.

Ultimately, he would like to destroy bombloms by destroying the very soil. This is not always possible—sometimes they land on houses, schools, or on roads. The day before, Rasmussen encountered a group of children playing a game of catch with one. He got out of his car, showed them the mine, and destroyed the bomblom himself, gently holding the ribbon, pulling away the string pin, pushing in a metal sleeve and then snapping the whole thing with a pipe.

It's agonizing that takes all of 30 seconds. Once damaged, bombloms are moved to a detonation mine nearby. The 10-year-old doesn't really know why he does what he does. "It's a car mechanic once upon a time, but that was boring," Rasmussen shrugs, sweat gleaming on his scalp. ■

with the Hebrews. And deeply beginning.

Mark Steyn warns of THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT



America is hated for every reason. Fanatical Muslims say we are too decadent. Secular Europeans think we are hopelessly arrogant. Arabs hate us for supporting Israel. Too Jewish, too Christian, too godless... in whatever way you measure, America is the prime example of it. So says controversial columnist Mark Steyn in his first and eagerly awaited new book, *America Alone*.

With soaring wit and soaring clarity, Steyn shows how the world is drastically changing and how America must get serious and fight, or be consumed. But Steyn also shows why the future, if the West has one, belongs to America alone.

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MACLEAN'S READERS' CHOICE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR IN HEALTHCARE

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Who made the most significant contribution to healthcare in 2006?

■ Dr. Hertzell Gerstein

Research team leader at McMaster University on medication for slowing the progression from pre-diabetes to diabetes. This is a promising development for "baby boomers" who are approaching the most common age for the onset of Type 2 diabetes.

■ Dr. Marco Marra

Team leader with BC Cancer Agency's Genome Sciences Centre for its contribution to the International Bovine Sequencing Project. Dr. Marra's team mapped 20,000 clones containing bovine DNA, to better understand Mad Cow and other diseases, and to enhance the nutritional value of beef and dairy products.

■ Dr. Frank Plummer

Scientific Director of the National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg, for research studying Africans who have an immune-system response resistant to the HIV virus, providing the building blocks for nearly 25 new vaccines and leading to the possible use of preventative microbicide gels.

■ Heather Crowe

A non-smoker who, before dying of lung cancer on May 22, 2006, led a high-profile campaign to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke in the workplace. She is credited with influencing politicians to amend labour legislation and impose greater restrictions on smoking in public places.

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GRAND RIVER'S tobacco products victory in the U.S. courts is far from certain

A host of witnesses, ranging from online gambling to bottled water, has left their once-rick business that brings in the big bucks. Grand River may now be a household name like Bathrooms and Benson & Hedges, yet the 34-year-old company still cranks out roughly five billion cigarettes a year from its plant in the northeast, enough to make it Canada's fourth-largest cigarette manufacturer. And it's got a strong export business. Earlier this year, Grand River reportedly signed a \$50-million deal to supply cigarettes to the German armed forces, while convincing officials there to sidestep a ban on the sale of cigarettes to the state of nearly six million.

Grand River has also made its way or eight shareholders' associations many times over. Between 2003 and 2005, Grand River paid them \$6.9 million in management bonuses, according to court filings. They declined to be interviewed for this story.

Grand River, along with other small American tobacco companies like Frederick Holdings and 18 Holdings, filed their anti-trust lawsuits around 2002. It has also sued the U.S. government under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

While many critics of these attorneys general said as much, Grand River sought to have the case tossed in New York about a year ago. But it was a losing move. One case's lawyers generally don't

have jurisdiction over another's. But in 2004, a final district court said since the tobacco agreement had been buttressed out in New York, the lawsuit could go ahead there. The states appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which this month declined to hear the case.

A victory for Grand River is far from certain, though. Earlier this year, the company asked a court in New York to block states from forcing it to pay into the escrow accounts until a final decision is reached. So far, according to Leonard Vio, Grand River's lawyer in New York, the company has paid \$167 million. But the judge seriously questioned whether the company would eventually succeed in its legal battle, and turned down the request.

Even Vio admits the courts could be left to overturn any part of the escrow tobacco



ANALYSTS HAVE THRASHED TOBACCO BONDS OVER FEARS REVENUE MIGHT NOT MATERIALIZE

settlement. He and Grand River has also asked the courts to let it sue the agreement on more favorable terms. "There's no question the agreement is unenforceable," he says. "But when you talk about a product called tobacco, which is deemed a parish for some reason, and secondly you're talking about states getting in on the money into their coffers, it causes the courts to be hesitant."

Still, investors like Larkin at J.P. Hennessey, which sold tobacco bonds to its clients, are watching the case closely. Analysts have already thrashed the bonds over fears that tobacco revenue might not materialize. "I'm not a legal expert but I think they've got a pretty good case because they're being asked to pay something that is unenforceable," he says. "Tobacco bonds could be a great deal of risk."

Drug sites peter out

Online pharmacies were booming last year, but the good times are over

BY NANCY MACDONALD • The ban on online pharmacies is a year ago has faded to a whisper, echoing the decline of the industry itself. In an election year, U.S. senators officials have announced they will stop asking prescription drugs available to the U.S. from Canada—scrapping a controversial 10-month-old policy. The result, by the Department of Homeland Security, has been the struggling Canadian industry hoping for a resurgence. But a sharp decline in cross-border orders over the past year has some convinced that the online drug industry is a spent force.

Last November, the Bush administration launched a crackdown on the trade in discounted drugs being ferried across the border to more than a million American customers. Pharmaceutical companies had complained about Canadian drug flooding the market at a rate of \$1 billion per year. Subsequent measures, combined with the introduction of the new U.S. Medicare program, making U.S. drugs more affordable for many seniors, led to a 30 per cent drop in the cross-border trade, according to the Canadian International Pharmacy Association. The robust Canadian dollar further compounded industry woes.

"The U.S. government did a really good job of scaring customers," says Rany Asaf, director of communications at Adv-Care Pharmacy, a Marlham, Ont.-based operation whose business, he says, was hit under the combined stress of the new Medicare drug insurance benefits and the stronger dollar. Widened layoffs and shutdowns have been the result. In Manitoba, where three-quarters of the Net pharmacy industry is based, the number of CIPSA members has dropped 40 in, from 35 in 2004. Industry-wide, an estimated 1,000 jobs have disappeared.

Asaf is hoping the end of the customs crackdown will trigger a surge in business, but, in some cases, a Calgary pharmacist, who edits the blog Canada Pharmacy News, is less optimistic. "Our dollar remains high, while many former customers now prefer to use the Medicare drug benefit," he says. And drug companies continue to deny supplies to online retailers, forcing them to have patients as far away as New Zealand fill prescriptions. ■

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EMPLOYEE
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WEEK

FUNERAL HOME PREVENTS CREMATIONS

When the broke out at the Williams & Bluff Funeral Home in Indianapolis, Ind., Nathan Bluff Jr. and Kevin Hunt discharged personal and kept into a configuration to large remained 39 firefighters. Placing duty above personal safety, the two men rolled out three caskets containing bodies. Said Bluff: "I did not want to see those families go through the pain of seeing their loved ones' remains perish in a fire."

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

Pornography, gambling, lies, theft and terrorism: The Internet sucks

(Where did we go wrong?)

BY STEVE MAICH

They're all still down there, out of sight and all but out of mind—hundreds of millions of miles of hair-thin strands of glass, strung beneath the streets of every city, under farm fields, suburbs, deserts, and across the ocean floor. It's enough optical fiber to wrap around the earth 4,000 times, with each strand capable of blasting blinding bursts of information across the globe at the speed of light. And almost all of it is an empty, dark and often an unseen conduit to every unfulfilled promise of the Internet.

The experts said we needed all of it and more because someone discovered the power of the World Wide Web, there would be no stopping it. Billions would flood into cyberspace, changing everything about the way we communicate, educate and entertain.

They're still telling the same old line. On Oct. 5, Google bought YouTube—an Internet site used primarily for the amateurish distribution of copyrighted material and alarming clips of people saying horrible in their bedrooms. This time of raw emotion, we're told,

is worth \$151.6 billion. It's just the latest step in ourling descent into cyber-craziness. After 15 years and a trillion dollars of investment, just about everything we've been told about the Internet and what the Information Age would mean has come up short.

The scientist who conceived and pioneered the Web described a kind of enlightened utopia built on mutual understanding, a world in which knowledge is limited only by our curiosity. Instead, we have constructed a virtual Wild West, where the masses indulge their darkest wishes, parties of all kinds trail for victims, and the rest of us have come to accept that cyberspace isn't the kind of place you'd want to raise your kids. The great rational exchange of ideas and goodwill has devolved into a blood fight. And the virtual marketplace is a great place to get robbed. The answer to the great questions of our world may be out there somewhere, but finding them will require you to first wade through an ocean of misinformation, error and deluge. We have been sold a bill of goods. We're paying for it through automatic monthly with-

drawals from our PayPal accounts.

Let's put it in terms crude enough for all cyber-dwellers to grasp: The Internet sucks.

Right from the beginning, experts competed with one another to see who could stretch the most outrageous superlatives to the nascent technology. It was the most important breakthrough since the personal computer, no, since the telephone—or rather the telegraph, or maybe the printing press. Bill Gates, in a famous editorial for the *New York Times*, called the Internet a "tidal wave" that "will wash over the computer industry and many others, drowning those who don't learn to swim in its waves."

But it was John Perry Barlow, former partner for the Grateful Dead named Internet visionary and co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, who set the gold standard for society-pained cynicism back in 1993 when Barlow's magazine called him to call parties in four-person discussion on the future of the Web. "With the development of the Internet... we are in the middle of the

most transforming technological event since the capture of fire," he said. What's perhaps most telling is not so much that Barlow would make such monumental claims, but that nobody on the panel cracked up laughing, or even disagreed. Such was the state of the times.

We've scrapped out the hype in recent years, but only slightly. This year, the National Academy of Engineering released its list of the 20 greatest engineering accomplishments of the past 100 years. The Internet ranked 19th, but even that ranking seems laughably generous. For instance, it came in just ahead of amazing technologies like the X-ray, MRI and radar—breakthroughs that have allowed us to look inside the human body without breaking the skin, to predict the weather, and to do things invisible to the human eye. Has the Internet achieved anything so worthy as a parable? Not on the list are household appliances. Try going back to doing the family's laundry by hand for one week, and then see if you'll gladly trade your Internet connection to get your washing machine back.

Robert Gordon, an economics professor at Northeastern University, is one of the few who've consistently argued that the Internet is a useful tool, but not a revolutionary one. The trouble with the Web, he says, is that it has produced productivity that is really over-just about everything that has come through the Web was available through other means before. Globalization, for instance, but it pales next to the achievement of the telegraph, which shortened the time required to communicate over vast distances from weeks to minutes. The annual combustion engine, the telephone, even air conditioning, had profound impacts on our lives, making the impossible possible. The Web does nothing of the sort. It merely replaces forms and paper with Online shopping replaces sales that used to be made through a salesperson. And for all but the most socially isolated, every hour spent scrolling through chat rooms replaces an hour that might otherwise have been spent in school, in conversation.

Even in the research and academic communities, which always had the most to gain from the Internet, Gordon says, the advantages could be kept in perspective. "It has made collaboration and communication faster and more efficient, but we're still doing the same things," he says. "The great waves in my field were all written before the Internet. It didn't make possible a groundbreaking discovery, it just made it possible to get things done a little easier."

That's important, because if the Internet wasn't only ever about convenience and finding quicker ways of doing the same old things, then all those lofty claims that drove the

The Internet is a 'tidal wave' that 'will wash over the computer industry and many others, drowning those who don't learn to swim in its waves'—Bill Gates

Internet into the mainstream were little more than hype. But, as history has shown many times, hype can be a very lucrative business.

In the late 1990s, just as the dot-com gold rush was reaching its peak, Jack Welch, chairman and CEO of General Electric and perhaps the most respected executive in the world at the time, described the Internet as "the Viagra of big business." Which is known for his colorful analogies, Welch knew for his bull's-eye so precisely as he had said that just like America's favorite little blue pill, the Internet produced "a business a rash of nervous excitement, which temporarily interfered with normal function. It was remarkably in one of the most important market districts in modern history between 1993 and mid-2000—a euphoric ride, followed by an equally wrenching collapse. Like Viagra, it came and went while it lasted.

That stretch is well known. But what most people still don't realize is that much of the global Internet mania of the late 1990s was driven by a myth, wildly propagated by a handful of corporate executives, several of whom are now in prison. The myth ran like this: The dot-com boom was that, between 1997 and 2000, Internet traffic was doubling every 100 days. It was a stunning claim that seems almost laughable when you think of the telecom company run by Canadian Bernard Ebbers, which collapsed after successful in-

The Internet is the Viagra of big business'—Jack Welch, chairman and CEO of General Electric



2002. That one statistic suggested the world was in the midst of a stampede to the Web, and it became one of the most useful truths of the new economy, repeated in casual conversation by CEOs, analysts, day traders and tax dodgers. Whenever anyone would suggest that dot-com market valuations were getting out of hand, or pose a skeptical question, someone would simply pull out that jaw-dropping statistic.

In fact, according to professor Andrew Odlyzko of the University of Minnesota, Internet traffic was doubling every year, between 1998 and 2002—still impressive, but a far cry from the more than 3,000 per cent annual growth implied by WorldCom officials and others. This was more than just an innocuous urban myth—it was the seed of one of the most devastating and economically disastrous episodes in modern history.

When the dot-com bubble finally burst in mid-2000, the losses ran into the trillions of dollars, and crashed the Internet-driven dot-com supernovas of millions. Where did it all go wrong? Some folks went to lay all the blame on the optimistic dreams of investors who bought computer equipment and football tickets for a supposed doomsday Internet utopia. And billions went to pay the bonuses of investment bankers and analysts, and to build vacation homes in the Caymans for the CEOs of dot-coms that no longer exist.

Google's recent purchase of YouTube suggests we're eagerly preparing to repeat our mistakes. MySpace, a storied listing social networking site, was similarly sold to News Corp. almost a year ago for \$1.6 billion. Speculation is now rampant that Yahoo! will sell soon after another raucous exit, Facebook, for nearly \$1 billion. All this for companies that did not exist a few years ago, and which have yet to prove that they can maintain



large traffic into even margin profits. Some analysts estimate YouTube is currently losing as much as US\$5.5 million every month.

The Internet route like Viagra for big business, all right. But the list of those who get screwed goes far beyond just investors and pension plans.

In 1996, the U.S. government's top copyright officer, Marybeth Peters, called the Internet "the world's biggest copying machine." She didn't know the half of it. At the time, slow connection speeds and weak processing power meant the Web was still essentially print medium. Within a couple of years, however, the full force of the Web's assault on intellectual property rights would come into focus.

As we all remember, the real trouble started with Napster, the little company run by a 29-year-old named Shawn Fanning, who figured out a way to let users swap files stored on their hard drives over the Web. Within a year of its creation, Napster collected 200,000 songs available for free download. By February 2001, Fanning had more than 26 million users. The music industry went for US\$20 billion and eventually managed to put Napster out of the music business. But by the time the industry won, it had already lost. Napster had opened dozens of copyright sites that continue to operate as the Web's legal gray zone, which copying and distributing music and video for free is not really allowed, but isn't prosecuted either.

The music industry partially solved the problem by going to it all. All major record labels track deals with legitimate online retailers like iTunes to make songs available for one dollar a track and a bonus for second downloads. It won't stop most of the pirating, but at least some of those who are inclined to buy their music legitimately have reasons to do so. Last Christmas, the burgeoning online music industry sold \$200 million in digital music over the Web in a single week, and the popularity of such services continues to grow.

Still, illegal downloads threaten like Kamas, Lamaze, Acquaone and Nerfwater continue to outperform legal ones by a wide margin. Music is new, for all content and user power, still strictly on the honor system. And as connection speeds and computer storage capacity improve, the same is increasingly true for movies, television programs and sporting events. Despite the obvious efforts of copyright publishers, Google is pushing ahead with a project to scan and store digital copies of millions of books that would be available on the Web. It will undoubtedly cause some research to shift. It's also potentially crippling blow to publishers whose businesses depend upon selling books to

thousands of libraries around the world.

There will undoubtedly find ways to make a virtue out of this new digital world. It will replace small artists in greater and lesser than the old record company model, for example. And it has already proven to be a boon to consumers, who get almost unlimited choice and lower prices. But that benefit has an out of the fact that it has neither been so easy and cheap as it seems to be. It's a good example of someone's work—be it music, film, writing



The National Academy of Engineering ranked the Internet as the 13th greatest engineering feat of the past 100 years. But even that seems too generous. Try doing laundry by hand for a week, and see if you wouldn't trade your Internet connection for a washing machine.

or research. To suggest the Internet is ultimately better off thanks to Internet file sharing is to suggest that consumers would be better off if he had out CDs for free and live on donations from fans.

The whole system of absorbing an economic value to create art has been chosen out the window. And artists aren't the only ones suffering from the sudden loss of their product being slung around the Web.

On Wednesday, July 5, Ken Lay, the former chairman and CEO of Enron Corp. died in Colorado. The cause first he was around 16:15, and at 11:16 Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia that allows users to update and modify entries, announced that Lay had died. "of an apparent suicide." Two minutes later, somebody changed the entry to say Lay had died "of an apparent heart attack or stroke." Less than a minute later, some cooler head intervened and changed the entry to say the cause of death was "yet to be determined." At 10:13 the entry was

changed again, this time stating that "The goal of naming so many facts finally led him to suicide." A minute after that, someone made a new post that "according to Lay's partner the cause was 'a massive coronary heart attack.'" Then, at 10:39, one of the Internet's anonymous, self-taught cardiologists wrote "speculation as to the cause of the heart attack had led many people to believe it was due to the massive coronary problem in the heart." Finally, a few hours later, the entry was so simple, nothing more than Lay had died of a heart attack in Aspen.

But other sites are not so easily re-written. Conspiracy theories, corrections and outright fabrication magazine in fact on the Internet, and often, nobody seems to notice the difference. The problem is not only the ease of human and the nature of cyber-space. The designers of the Internet put their deepest faith in the wisdom of the masses to establish truth and value by consensus. Google notes search results based on how many web links to a particular site. Digg.com is a site

renowned for being left behind in the rush to the Internet, and people are simply dumped the contents of their publications onto the Internet for free. Many of the top sites like Google and YouTube lead the Web and post headlines, photos and lead paragraphs from publications all around the world, eating into the market for traditional newspapers and collecting a share of the ad revenue. The sudden shift in the economics of newsgathering has caused huge pressure on the traditional news patterns, and major outlets from the New York Times to London's Daily Telegraph have responded by forcing back their news staff. And so, in an era in which we're supposed to have universal access to more information from more varied sources around the world, there are fewer and fewer reporters on the ground digging up original information. And the companies in the business of providing credible, original reporting are finding it more and more difficult to survive.

In the place of hard information, the Net has achieved in the era of the amateur researcher. Rather than reporting the news, the Internet actually tends to allow us to hunt to analyze the news in our days on chat blogs and message boards. "It is no exaggeration to conclude that the Internet has achieved, and continues to achieve, the most participatory marketplace of mass speech that this country—and indeed the world—has ever seen," George W. Bush, Newsmaker 2000 columnist, wrote a few years back. Sounds spectacular, but what's the great value of a participatory marketplace of mass speech if so few have anything to say that's worth saying?

Andrew Keen, a former Internet entrepreneur turned skeptic, argues that this "digital utopianism" is playing havoc with our economy and politics. His first book on the subject, titled *The Culture of the Amateurs*, is based on the idea that the onslaught of blogs, wikis and social networking websites is destroying our culture by celebrating mediocrity and denigrating talent. "The cult of the amateur is digital technology's most effective education argument, mistakenly, that everyone has something interesting to say," he wrote earlier this year, ironically, on his own blog.

Google News, Craigslist and the world army of bloggers have devalued journalism just as surely as Napster poisoned the ear for recorded music. According to the PSW Internet and American Life Project, there are now more than 13 million bloggers in the United States alone, and more than a third of them consider what they do a form of journalism, even though little or no reporting is involved. There are certainly some interesting and insightful blogs, as a ready source of topics. But in general, the more

The Internet is the world's biggest copying machine' —Marybeth Peters, U.S. register of copyrights



exhaustive the subject matter, the less reliable the common sense. The vast majority of political blogs are clearly ideologically motivated, and tend to devolve into vitriolic rants or sophomoric insults. They feed on their contempt for the so-called mainstream media, which is typically referred to as the "MSM," and is derided by both left and right as hopelessly biased and establishment.

In a 2000 paper, Cass Sunstein, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, described the "echo chamber" effect of blogs and message boards. Rather than fostering debate, moderation and consensus and social

Tim Berners-Lee, the man who invented the World Wide Web, envisioned 'an interactive sea of shared knowledge ... immersing us as a warm, friendly environment made of the things we and our friends have seen, heard, or believe.'

The public at large saw an invitation to indulge vice on an unimaginable scale.

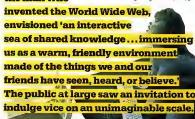
ing, he argued, those sites have contributed to the polarization of our political culture. People gravitate toward sites that reflect their established point of view, and those who formerly encountered in their political echo chambers, the participants take turns responding to the established circle, reinforcing each others' ideas and biases, and denouncing anyone who might disagree.

Rather than promoting open discussion and greater understanding, the Net has fed the cynical perception that every form of traditional authority is based on lies and corruption. The much-hyped free market of ideas is a world in which the loudest and most outrageous assertion dominates the discussion. Everybody believes they're being approved by those opposed to them. The truth is what you already think it is, and nobody can be trusted.

What would you want to know about, if you could know anything? The Internet posed this question on a massive, global scale, and the answers we've provided are depressing.

Tim Berners-Lee, the man widely credited with inventing the World Wide Web, once said he envisioned an "an interactive sea of shared knowledge ... immersing us as a warm, friendly environment made of the things we and our friends have seen, heard, or believe." But the public at large saw an opportunity to indulge vice on an unimaginable scale. A 1998 study by Forrester Research pegged the market for online porn at close to US\$1 billion annually. However, it has grown since then as the subject of lesser discussion, but one company, Internet Filter Review, reported sales between 1998 and 2001 of the number of pornographic pages on the World Wide Web rose from 10 million to 260 million.

But the burgeoning world of online gam-





EMOTIONS ARE CATCHING: Gilda Szeeman and Yoko Shimizu on Saturday Night Live

SOCIAL SABOTEURS

It's not just your EQ, it's everyone else's you've got to watch out for

BY KATE FELLICH • Eleven years ago, Daniel Goleman opened a main industry with an academician-turned-critic-turned-bestselling author. In a piece in *Psychology Today*, he argued that being aware of our feelings, and having the ability to manage them, may be even more important to success than high IQ. A vast array of formal and behavioral research provided a scientific impetus for what Goleman's efforts have been considered a theory, but psychologists, who view in short order and follow by emotional intelligence tests and how to construct designed to boost the EQ of everyone from young to schoolchildren. "It took me by surprise, to be frank," says Goleman, now 60. "I simply didn't expect there would be that much interest in the book or in the people who would be able to make money out of these ideas."

Goleman, too, made money, enough to quit his day job as a science reporter at the *New York Times* and focus full-time on writing books such as *Working with Emotional Intelligence* and *The Emotionally Intelligent Workplace*. But at last, he says, he has written "a true sequel." Social intelligence. Yes, there's yet another band of intelligence we need, and it involves empathy and social skills—the interpersonal aspects of emotional intelligence, in other words. Understanding our own feelings is not enough. We need to understand everyone else's, too. Because, he writes, other people's emotions have a direct effect on our own bodies and brains.

"The classic mind-body split in psychology

and neuroscience has been one brain in one person as one body," he explained recently in a phone interview from his home in Connecticut. "About three or four years ago, in the scientific journals, I started to see reports of a two-person psychology, what person as an interaction in context to what goes on within an individual." Although the idea of social intelligence has been around since the 1930s, the relatively new field of social neuroscience—which won't even have its own

SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED OUR INTERACTIONS DON'T JUST SHAPE OUR EXPERIENCES, THEY ALTER OUR BIOLOGY AND OUR BRAINS

academic journal until 2007—will, Goleman believes, refine, revise and strengthen the concept.

Scientists have discovered that our interactions don't just shape our experiences. They actually alter our biology. Fulfilling relationships promote good health, while bad ones "can set the slow poison in our bodies," he says. Neuroscience has discovered something even scarier, for anyone trapped in a miserable relationship: Longstanding relationships can actually change our brains. It's called "neuroplasticity" and, Goleman writes,

it means that "repeated experiences sculpt the shape, size, and number of our brains and their synaptic connections." Or, to put it in other words: your rotten husband isn't just wrecking your life—he's actually wrecking your brain, too.

Key, apparently, is a recently discovered class of brain cells called mirror neurons, that Goleman likens to a form of Wi-Fi in our brains. Mirror neurons "tune into the brain of the person you're with, and mirror in you the internal state of that person." They are not only the basis of empathy and social skills, but explain why emotions are contagious, why we can "catch" someone else's bad mood even if we don't share his reasons for being angry. "Our emotions are experienced not mostly by ourselves in isolation but also by those around us," Goleman writes, and weeds out both soft and hard science to prove it.

Mirror neurons are part of the "social brain," which operates unconsciously and very rapidly during any encounter. The good news is that humans are hard-wired for empathy and kindness, the bad news is that modern life tends to make our brains too slow to respond to other's distress. In fact, technology, particularly computers, promotes our ability to distance others, because, Goleman said, "There is no channel online for the social brain to read what it would be a face-to-face interaction. We don't consciously pick up the cues that tell us how someone is reacting to us, or the subtlest when we are around them. The social brain is blind online, and all the result is during, when people who are upset or agitated or grumpy type out a message and hit send and the person who receives it takes it as made or brusque or somehow inappropriate."

But despite technological obstacles, social intelligence can, Goleman believes, be learned, even by those who have neurological conditions such as Asperger's syndrome or social deficits such as dyslexia (sympoms include struggling too close to another person when talking). And it doesn't take a genius to figure out that understanding how we are wired to connect is likely part of the burgeoning. "To not assess our social intelligence and how to maximize it can be a detriment," he writes.



NO INTRA-SPECIES OUTING ALLOWED

An evolutionary theory at the London School of Economics predicts that in 150,000 years, homo sapiens may split into two sub-species: an upper class of tall, attractive, intelligent humans, and an underclass of stunted people with goblin-like features. The genetic inequality will result from humans becoming increasingly picky when choosing social partners. And in a world that resembles the one H.G. Wells described in his 1896 novel, *The Time Machine*.

IT'S THE ULTIMATE

Extreme fighting may be the thing in Vegas, but Brazil is the hot spot

BY ISRAEL VINCENT • It used to be that in the Brazilian "upside" that has been dubbed "Ultimate Fighting" in North America, two fighters would use a myriad of martial arts styles to brutally clobber each other in a cage. The winner would usually emerge bloody and bruised, the loser would sometimes be rushed to hospital. For years, the fights were banned, and relegated to underground fight clubs. In Rio de Janeiro, where it had its origins among jiu-jitsu masters in the beachfront neighborhood of Copacabana, ultimate fighting, known as "vale tudo" in Portuguese, was forced by law outside the municipality after several participants suffered acute-kick blows.

But the beauty only served to enhance the popularity of the sport. And while the adoption of a 10-page rule book, referred to as the Unified Rules of MMA, and the presence of physicians watching it from a viewing box, has made it in Brazil still draw thousands, and in some places are even more popular than soccer. "With the amateurs, there's no head-bumping, no hair-pulling, no genital grabbing, and no sticking your finger in your opponent's eye," says Donald Coker, 31, a jiu-jitsu master and a mixed-race male in Rio. "I might be able to admit that rule made in a brutal sport, Coker also defends it. "It was not a martial art, but rule made in a combination of different martial arts," he says. "It's not about being brutal. It's about being technique."

In North America, ultimate fighting has been largely going mainstream. Matches, sponsored by Las Vegas organizations called the Ultimate Fighting Championship, are regularly televised, with live fights attracting cable viewers as much as mixed-fighters Crawford and Paul Hixon. UFLA called itself the "Ultimate Fighting Championship" and once a reality TV series called *The Ultimate Fighter*, which continues to be the most popular MMA series.

But the sport's local point is even Brazil, where jiu-jitsu academies around thousands of martial arts centers across the world. Brazilian-style jiu-jitsu is the art of grappling on the ground, which is a derivative of the ar-



THE BRUTALITY ONLY ENHANCES THE SPORT'S POPULARITY

ULTIMATE FIGHTING MATCH IN LAS VEGAS, 22-year-old Brazilian Daniel Coker (right)



imate fighting, where combatants are often knocked off their feet. "Rio is the world center for ultimate fighting and jiu-jitsu," says Terrence Johnson Ocho, a jiu-jitsu expert who teaches at the New York Academy Club. Along with members of the U.S. military and special forces agencies, he regularly travels to Rio de Janeiro to train with Brazilian jiu-jitsu masters. "It came once a year because Brazilian have this unique thing which combines rigorous discipline with a casual and relaxed attitude," says Johnson Ocho. "That's why you see these great masters coming all the way from jiu-jitsu to train here."

Brazilian style jiu-jitsu, and ultimately vale tudo, was pioneered by the Gracie family, in particular Helio Gracie, 94, who trained a generation of jiu-jitsu masters. His family has established academies around the world (in Canada, there are Gracie academies in Toronto and Calgary), earning a Gracie black belt is often a major feat in an Ivy League university. The elder Gracie lives in the rolling hills of Itaipava, a town about 30 miles north of Rio. At his apartment house, where several

thousand live, "It's not for the momentary physical pleasure," said Gracie, "but for the more permanent pleasure of ultimate fighting, although some jiu-jitsu masters disagree at it. 'Jiu-jitsu teaches you your defense comes with a certain inequality,'" says João Gilberto de Souza, 53, a jiu-jitsu master and vice-coach at the Brazilian consulate in Toronto who teaches at a local Brazilian jiu-jitsu club. Vale tudo, he says, is "street fighting, and very brutal!" In the ultimate fighting Gracie world, the rule that is not to everyone's taste. "My system doesn't like it," he says. ■



BEACH VOLLEYBALL OWES MUCH TO FENCING

To keep out illegal immigrants, a security fence has been built across a beach on the California border near Tijuana. But the divide, made of steel bars, recently attracted players for what was billed as "the international border volleyball." The game was played all this regular beach volleyball, only using the fence as a net. The Mexican side won, and the whole affair was more than another recent sport event a decade was that from a fence on the fence.



What your Denturist needs you to know about **IMPLANTS** The Option of Choice for Denture Stability

If you currently wear dentures and are experiencing pain, discomfort or difficulties chewing, then dental implants may be a solution for improving your quality of life. Today's high success rate for dental implants and their affordability have made this procedure an extremely popular choice for denture stability and replacement of missing teeth. Implants are now considered a more successful procedure than root canals, fillings and crowns and bridges.

The Team Approach

Implant procedures often involve an oral health team approach. Your Denturist should be consulted for careful evaluation and decisions regarding the denture appliance to be anchored to the implants. Once a treatment plan has been established with your Denturist, a referral to an oral surgeon will determine your candidacy for implants, based on your dental and medical health history. The implants are then placed and they will anchor into the bone. Once the bone has completely healed around the implants, a finished denture is made with matching attachments that will secure to the actual implants.

Implant placement is a surgical procedure which is typically completed in a few hours. During the healing phase, patients may wear their old denture, fitted with temporary soft liners. The number of implants to be placed is determined by you, your Denturist and the oral surgeon.

In a recent study published by McGill University's dental department, it was concluded that the minimum standard of care for denture patients should include at least two implants on a lower denture to allow for adequate function. This trend is becoming

What to keep in mind about implants:

- If you currently wear dentures and are experiencing pain, discomfort or difficulties chewing, then dental implants may be a solution for improving your quality of life.
- Implants are now considered a more successful procedure than root canals, fillings and crowns and bridges.
- Your Denturist should be consulted for careful evaluation and decisions on the appliance to be anchored to the implants.
- A recent study published by McGill University's dental department concluded that the minimum standard of care for denture patients should include at least two implants on a lower denture to allow for adequate function.

more popular as both professionals and the public have become aware of the benefits of dental implants. To determine the best options available, contact your Denturist for a consultation.

Did you know?

You don't need a referral to visit a Denturist. Denturists must be licensed with the College of Denturists of Ontario in order to practice in Ontario and their Certificate of Registration (license) must be prominently displayed in their office.

YOUR EYE HEALTH



October is eye health month —and that makes it a good time to think about how well you are taking care of your eyes.

Eye health is everyone's responsibility, says the Opticians Association of Canada, a national organization representing Canadian opticians in matters of education, legislation and professional development. Due to their high visibility in malls and other retail locations, opticians are often the first to be approached by consumers seeking information and guidance about vision-related issues. As an important part of the eye-care team, opticians not only refer consumers for eye health examinations but can also provide a wealth of information about services, eyewear options and vision aids.

"Vision will inevitably change as you age and eye health examinations are important at different life stages", says the association. "Consumers must become educated about how best to maintain and care for their sight. It is the responsibility of everybody in the vision care team to make that education available." >>



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Don't delay. Take control of your cholesterol now.

Some risks can be managed. One of them is your high cholesterol, which can lead to cardiovascular disease such as a heart attack or a stroke.¹ Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Canada and about one quarter of heart attack sufferers do not survive.²

Life is precious, so why not take measures to reduce unnecessary risk? **High cholesterol is manageable.** A healthy lifestyle is an essential part, but sometimes not enough. So it may be necessary for your doctor to incorporate other measures.

Since high cholesterol is a risk factor for heart attack and stroke, why take a chance by doing nothing about it? You may not feel high cholesterol, but you could feel its impact. **Make the Connection.** Join the millions of Canadians who are taking action, because you could be surprised by what's lurking beneath.

Talk to your doctor or, for more information, call **1-877-4-LOW-LDL (1-877-456-9535)** or visit makingtheconnection.ca

Make the Commitment.

Cholesterol & Your Heart



1. Risk Factors – Cholesterol, Heart and Stroke Foundation, 5/22/2004
2. Statistics Canada, Causes of Death 2002



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE HABITS PROTECT YOUR EYES

A person's eyesight is usually most stable between the ages of 25 to 35, says optician Don Smith, owner of Calgary Optical & Contact Lens and a past president of the Opticians Association of Canada. "But as you get older, your eyes are at greater risk, particularly for presbyopia (a condition all people develop that makes it increasingly difficult to read small print, etc.), but also for vision threatening conditions such as cataracts, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma."



**Here is a checklist of healthy lifestyle habits
that protect your eyes—and eyesight—throughout your life.**

- **Know your risks.** A family history of eye disease as well as light-coloured eyes and skin, diabetes, obesity, age (over 50) and smoking all increase risk of eye disease. Remember, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) can occur without any early warning symptoms while diabetic retinopathy can progress rapidly if left untreated. Early detection and treatment is important.
- **For eye health and vision care in general, having your eyes examined on a regular schedule is a good practice.** Even if you don't have symptoms of eye problems, if you are between the ages of 40 to 64 an eye health examination is recommended by the American Academy of Ophthalmology every two to four years. People over 65 should be seen every one to two years. Consult your eye-care professional or your family practitioner to determine the frequency that is best for you, depending on your age, family history, existing eye conditions and risk factors.
- **Quit smoking.** Smokers are nearly seven times more likely to develop AMD, according to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.
- **Eat carrots, broccoli and other eye-healthy food choices.** Colourful vegetables and fruits are good for your eyes, especially those rich in beta-carotene (designated by their orange colour) like carrots, squash and sweet potatoes. Also choose dark leafy greens including spinach or romaine lettuce, lots of bright-coloured citrus fruits, and foods rich in vitamins C and E and zinc.
- **Keep active.** Excess weight, a sedentary lifestyle and high blood pressure are all risk factors for AMD and diabetic retinopathy.
- **Always protect eyes from sunlight.** Constant exposure to ultraviolet light can damage your eyes. Exposure to sunlight is associated with a higher risk of developing AMD and cataracts. When you are outside, always wear a hat with a brim and sunglasses with at least 98 per cent protection from ultraviolet (UV) rays. Remember to protect your children's eyes from the sun as well.
- **Wear special eye protection when needed.** When playing sports or working with power tools, Canadian Standards Association-approved safety glasses or goggles will protect your eyes from hazardous and air-born materials.
- **Consult with your doctor about taking vitamins.** If you are diagnosed with AMD specifically, talk to your eye-care professional about antioxidants. There may be a link, for example, between lutein, a type of antioxidant, and decreased risk of eye disease.

The theme for this year's World Sight Day 2006, October 12, 2006 is "Low Vision". Currently 124 million people worldwide have low vision and many millions more are functionally blind due to uncorrected refractive error.

OPTICIANS HELP MAKE THE MOST OF DECLINING VISION

During the early 1990s, a condition called "spontaneous retinal detachment" in both eyes left Marc Raymond of Kingston, Ont., with little normal vision. Luckily, and ironically, Raymond was an optician who specialized in low vision and helped elderly clients to make the most of their declining vision. He knew that low-vision aids and strategies would help him see better too. Today, Raymond, 63, always carries a small sack of different types of eyewear, including glasses with yellow filtering lenses that help clarify images on hazy days, magnifier glasses that have a small telescope attached across their top and a small pair of binoculars. While he's had to give up his practice (Marc's son Courtney now runs the business called Marc F. Raymond Opticians), Raymond keeps busy with wood and metal working projects, gardening and cooking, using "magnification, light and filters to optimize what I can still see."

The Canadian Ophthalmological Society explains that low vision means you no longer have the ability to see comfortably, with or without glasses, whatever is around, near or far. The condition affects mostly elderly people (risk factors increase with each decade beginning at about age 40), making it an increasingly common condition in Canada.

Low vision is most often caused by age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma or cataracts. AMD affects the part of the retina that is concerned with small details. Diabetic retinopathy causes vision loss because fluid leaks from the blood vessels inside the retina. Glaucoma is a virtually symptomless build-up of pressure in the eye that affects the optic nerve. Cataracts are explained as a clouding of the crystalline lens. (Cataracts, however, are seldom the cause of visual impairment in Canada because the condition is so easily treated). Spontaneous retinal detachment and other medical conditions can cause low vision too.

An ophthalmologist is the doctor who will do what he can to save your vision, explains Raymond. Then, a low-vision specialist such as an optician can assist with specific devices and life skills training to maximize remaining vision. After correcting any refractive error (even if the prescription can't solve all the vision problems completely), the optician will do an assessment to find out why you have low vision and what your goals are—the most common are simple life tasks such as being able to watch TV, read a book and write cheques. Makeshift devices can be helpful too.

For example, when Raymond had trouble seeing the tiny seeds he wanted to plant, he devised a planting container that would help—an empty soup can with small riveted holes in one end.

"It's important to know that low-vision aids do not improve vision but they take the remaining vision you have and use it to its best advantage," says optician David Nelson of United Optical Ltd. in Abbotsford, B.C. "It's all about quality of life and there isn't one solution."

Here are some of the low-vision aids explained by optician David Nelson:

- Environmental modifications include sitting closer to the TV and using large print products such as clocks, coffee makers, telephones and books.
- A hand-held magnifier glass can often improve the ability to read. Magnification can go as high as five times the image size. But the higher the magnification is, the smaller the magnifier glass.
- A stand magnifier is especially helpful if someone has dexterity issues such as hand tremors.
- A telescope or pair of telescopes fitted to glasses magnifies a distant picture. These special glasses look like a pair of binoculars mounted to a pair of glasses.
- Bright field magnifiers are stand magnifiers that utilize light.
- Field expanders are the reverse of magnification and compress a huge area into a small area.
- Halogen bulbs in the home provide brighter, whiter light. Also, good strong reading lamps should be positioned so there is lots of light on the page. The light should come from behind the shoulder (not glare into the face).
- Assistive technologies based on computerized magnification software include closed-circuit television systems that use mouse cams that scan across reading material to bring it up on a screen. The user controls magnification up or down and can change the colour of the background for better clarity. Smaller systems (the size of a book) scan a menu, for example, in a restaurant and magnify it onto a little hand-held screen. Units range from several hundred dollars to three to five thousand dollars.
- Custom made filters for eyeglasses can filter out glare, for example, in bright hazy sunlight.

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annoying glare while they block 100% of UVA and UVB rays. So Transitions Lenses do more than improve your vision now. They help protect it for the future. No wonder they're the #1 recommended photochromic lenses worldwide.* Ask your eyecare professional about Transitions Lenses today and see for yourself!



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OAC CALLS FOR MORE VISION SCREENING

The Opticians Association of Canada is calling for more vision screening in schools, malls and other public places. "Research has shown that a significant number of people in Canada are functionally illiterate... they can't function simply because they need glasses," says the association.

A vision screening project set up by the Opticians of Manitoba in Winnipeg schools last year, helped hundreds of children who had fallen through the cracks in social assistance programs, says Cathie Bolin, certified contact lens optician and owner of Linden Ridge Eye Care, Winnipeg. Some children were having problems seeing the board in the classroom, says Bolin. "We went into schools and did vision screenings—if a kid's vision didn't meet the standard, we recommended a vision test."

"And it was so rewarding to watch the look on those kids' faces when they could actually see," says Bolin, who donated eyeglasses to the project.



OPTICIANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

ANSWERS YOUR FAQ'S

Who should I see about my vision problems?

If you have questions about your vision, any eye-health practitioner can point you in the right direction to find answers. Opticians, optometrists and physicians, such as your family doctor or an eye specialist (also called ophthalmologists) are good sources of information and/or referral.

What is the difference between an eye-health exam and a sight test?

An eye-health exam is a medical examination of your eyes, to detect health conditions and eye diseases that can threaten your vision even if you do not experience any symptoms. It can only be performed by ophthalmologists (medical doctors specializing in eye health) and optometrists (non-medical eye-health practitioners).

A sight test, which is also called a refraction, determines the accuracy of your vision by checking the ability of your eyes to focus. The test assesses the

lens power you need for your eyeglasses in order to see clearly. It can be done to adjust the power of your glasses so that you can update your eyeglasses or get a new pair of eyeglasses. Since a sight test is not a medical examination, it cannot check for underlying diseases or conditions that may affect your vision or health.

Does vision screening provide prescriptions for glasses?

No. Vision screening is basically a quick and easy procedure to find out whether you see clearly. It can be as simple as showing you diagrams or eye charts and asking if you see them clearly. Vision screening can be done by automated devices or even on the Internet. Vision screening is not meant to tell you how much lens power you need for your eyeglasses or to assess your eye health. It simply tells you if you can see clearly or not.

When you're wearing the wrong glasses, that's all people see.

ADVANCES IN VISION CORRECTION

Vision reshaping: The future is now

If you've ever thought about having laser surgery to correct your nearsightedness but just couldn't bring yourself to have the actual surgery, consider an alternative that reshapes vision without surgery.

The process, called Orthokeratology, uses a special contact lens to reshape the cornea while you sleep so you can see without correction during the day, explains Heather Power of Contact Lens Services (CLS) in Winnipeg. The process has several different names depending on the manufacturer, including AOKK, vision reshaping therapy and Corneal Refractive Therapy.TM

"It gently and non-surgically reshapes the cornea by using a highly specialized therapeutic lens retainer that is inserted into the eye before bed." Patients remove the retainer lenses in the morning and are typically able to see all day long without the use of glasses or contacts.

Once the custom retainer lens is fitted and ready to wear, it takes a week to 10 days to drop the prescription from your original level to the target level. The cost will vary but Power charges \$1400 to \$3660 for both eyes depending on the complexity of the fitting. The replacement retainer lenses, which are needed every one to two years, range in price. Power charges about \$140 per lens.

Ortho-K is not suitable for everyone. Talk to your optician or other eye care professional to find out if the prescription, size and shape of your eyes and pupils make you a good candidate. Right now it works only in patients who are nearsighted.

ENHANCE YOUR LOOK:

Fashionable frames sparkle

Frameless frames have been popular for several years now but colour and fine stone detailing are the latest looks in prescription glasses, says Robert Grinnard of Grinnard Opticians www.grinnardopticians.ca, Montreal. Here's a quick review of fashion trends:

- Frameless frames with temples (arms) in colour (including white) or with encrusted fine stones
- Framed glasses in an array of colours—red will always be in fashion but look for orange and green too, some frames are a mix of colour, with one colour (such as pink) on the bottom and another (purple perhaps) on the top
- White frames—they're all the rage in Europe
- Rectangular lenses (not oval or rounded)
- Lightweight titanium metal frames.
- For people who like to have a pair of prescription glasses for in- and outdoors, technology has improved the process whereby lenses darken in bright light. The lenses now turn dark and lighten faster, says Grinnard, and they don't leave any residue of colour when they do lighten.



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HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT GLASSES FOR YOUR FACE

Matching the shape and colour of glasses to your facial features is an art that opticians specialize in, says Montreal optician Jean Sebastian Grimaud, Grimaud Opticiens, Montreal. If you are looking for new glasses, talk to an optician ("we know what will fit the face from experience") and consider these general rules for enhancing your best features with frames.

- To minimize the fullness of a round face, try straight or angular lines and deep colours.
- To complement a heart-shaped face, try round and angular glasses (not glasses that are wider at the top than the bottom).
- Soften a square face with rounded or oval-shaped glasses.

- Complement a long thin face with small rims.
- Use light coloured frames with a pale complexion.
- Use a contrasting frame colour to the eyes—or the eyes will not stand out.



CONTACT LENS UPDATE: Almost everyone can wear them now!

Contact lenses have come a long way. At one time, hard lenses were the only contact lenses available. Then, soft lenses were developed for patients who were unable to adapt to hard lenses or experienced too much irritation while wearing them. Today, there are rigid gas permeable lenses as well as soft lenses... "really a contact lens for just about every prescription and lifestyle," says Power. Be sure to ask your optician about new products and technologies. Here's a quick overview.

- The newest and most exciting soft lens material is Silicone Hydrogel (several products available including aspheric and bifocal designs). This type of lens, says Power, has three to five times the breathability of regular soft lenses. "And this allows longer, more comfortable, even healthier wear, often with less redness at the end of the wearing day."
- Specially designed contact lenses for sports reduce glare and provide high contrast for many types of ball sports, making the ball pop up so it's more visible, says Power. "These lenses provide the function of high-contrast sunglasses without having the impediment of sunglasses." They can also benefit anyone who spends a lot of time outdoors and does not want to use sunglasses.
- Many prescriptions, including bifocals, are now available in disposable form including one day or single use format. For those who prefer traditional use lenses or non-disposable ones, more effective

and simpler solution systems have been developed for ease of cleaning and storage.

- Today's rigid lenses are gas permeable (called rigid gas perm or RGP) for improved comfort and greater breathability. Rigid lenses actually provide better clarity of images than soft lenses, says Power. Alternatively, soft contact lenses have "faster comfort adaptation"—which means they are relatively comfortable within 30 to 35 minutes.
- New "dry eye" materials being used in soft contact lenses are beneficial if you have a problem with a dryer eye, are exposed to dryer environments, or spend a lot of time performing tasks that dry out the eyes. (Working on a computer for example causes a reduction in the blink rate to one-third the normal rate.) These new materials generally retain moisture in the lens longer, are deposit resistant and often able to re-wet more effectively when they do become dry.

Cosmetic contact lenses that have no corrective value and change eye colour are popular and fun but where you buy them is a no laughing matter. Be sure you buy cosmetic contact lenses from a regulated eye-care professional such as an optician, optometrist or ophthalmologist. There are reports that cosmetic contact lenses are being sold by unregulated professionals in retail locations such as handbags, convenience stores and accessory stores. But vision is at risk without the necessary counseling, fitting and follow-up care. OAC.

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For more information on the Opticians Association of Canada, please visit www.opticians.ca

DAVE MACEACHERN
AN OLYMPIC CHAMP IS
TAKEN OFF THE STREET

(top) of past age. Dave "Bil" MacLachlan, an Olympic bobsledding gold medalist from Charlottetown, received the citizenship right in his hometown, a street with his name. But last week, it's a 19 vote, council member argued, shoving Dave "Bil" MacLachlan's Coat to a line of Olympic Fl Coats after 600 per cent of the street's residents signed a petition complaining their children couldn't swim in his name. MacLachlan, the only Olympic bobsledder from Prince Edward Island history, who was born in Napanee in 1966 and who now runs a Charlottetown fitness business, was also pleased "If you shorten the name, they're name of it," Philip Truett, the only councillor to vote against the name change, recalls the thoroughly dismayed MacLachlan saying back. A day after the decision, Brown announced little El Coats—only to find that "130 per cent" means just three households. Brown describes the move as "one of these ridiculous decisions that politicians make. They enter back and doesn't just stop, but then they say you read while heartbeats."



THE BACK PAGES

books

It's a quirky world out there
P.52

film

Hollywood's hottest director
P.53

tv

It's finally getting a little better
P.55

taste

Butcher your order
P.51

bazaar

The bootlegging business
P.48

help

Payday in Calgary
P.49

A local boy at home in the world

Montreal was Richler's place, but there was a larger story going on. BY ADAM GOPNIK

books

Growing up in Montreal—growing up, especially, as an unassimilated but still ethnically unassimilable Jew, and growing up, even more especially, as someone who *Wanted To Write*—the novelist Mordecai Richler was the single powerful local presence, the one with whom one had to deal. To read his novels—Coburn or

Richler—he knew had become the books that he had already written.

For there was—and it was hard not to miss this either—in the arc of his career, something intrinsically double, something self-conscious. He was there. It Leonard Cohen was the one who got away, Richler was the one who got away and then got back, the one who came home to Montreal (Where, odd personal history, for many years his large and avid family lived across a courtyard from my own slightly larger and no less

casual than the obvious one that Montreal was cheap and familiar).

The love of place and home was powerful for him because he was, in the best 19th-century sense, a local novelist, one who owned a place. Montreal was not his only place—he wrote well wherever he went, and about whatever he looked at. In his first novel was set in Spain—but it was his chief place, the place where his experience spoke most cogently to his imagination. And not all as even most of Montreal even. He was a specific, not an encyclopedist, novelist. Montreal around St. Lawrence Boulevard and then over into the congested outskirts of Westmount and the other richer Jewish areas across the river—just to name these names down to recall how wonderfully he organized their particular presence in his fiction. Local had richer boys, local big readers of good. It is a familiar story, though never a dull one. But it may make us miss the other, larger and more international story going on in his work.

The imperiousness of Israeli is one of the many things that separate his work from that of the American Jewish novelist with whom he is often, and wrongly, conflated. When he died, there was a considerable sense, in the American press anyway, that he was a lesser northern light of the American Jewish community—but in fact his tastes



RICHLER'S MONTREAL He had the affectations urge to inventory a city and tribe, but also the serene urge to track their present and

The Apprenticeship of David Rivkin—was to recognize with a thrill, local but not less in any for that, that someone had gone down right, had made of streets and streets and set down something sharply and critically exact. It was as if, living on the Downs, you read Flaubert it was that you had never known before your experience was worth writing about. It was that you had never known before that you were living in a book. Even if, as I did, you saw the animal second hand and at a distance, and just as it was disappearing, St. Urbain Street already on its way to being Rue St. Urbain, it didn't matter. The Mon-

and one.) This made him a central local figure—for some almost too central a figure, a subject of Montreal love and wonder to whom legends and (mostly untrue) rumors danced. (I recall that a proper of something else, he once quoted to me, with approval, Chaitin's remark that the worst thing in the world was provincial celebrity.) But it also provided him with that ambiguity, or double message, expressed so clearly in his life with his work. He ran away from home, and then came home. Choosing to get away and then choosing to go home again, one turned in his character a more complex

and intense could not have been more unlike those of Roth andellow and Malamud and Stern. They were not cosmic creatures headed for Stockholm—poets of identity, writers whose drama was inside the self, not out in the neighborhood (Stark in Newark and New York but might be Oak Park and Chicago—in fact, sometimes in Chicago.) Richler had a great regard for those novelists, but also a slightly anxious feeling about the recent legions, the American gaudiness and the darkness there. His own tastes and style had been, I believe—or at least seemed in the brief time that I "killed" him at a steadily

magazine in the mid-eighties, when I was a pup and he was also, in a need of editing at 33—most affected by his long years in London in the thirties and earlier. Evelyn Waugh was to him what Melville was to the Americans. He adopted grammar and novel-ism (we wonder if Bach and Beethoven had even read Waugh). Richler was devoted to Waugh, for all Waugh's robust wit, wit and patty snobbery, because he was a comic writer who showed a way to be elegant without being "snuffy", a combination Richler found powerful, and, as a small thing, because Waugh did his work through dialogue, not monologue (Richler is a dialogue-writer, not a monologue-writer, a writer, a comedian, rather than a philosophical novelist).

There was, in his personal presence, as well as in his work, always a certain kind of fussy black and white, drinking club and broadsheet newspaper, BBC—the old cultured BBC—English sensibility present, that grim pakey, born in a cosy but austere cold-war London, that runs through Braine



HE GOT AWAY—then came back. After years in England, Richler (seen here in 1965) returned, it's an ambivalent scene in his life and work.

and down to the novels of Bradbury and Lodge. (He adapted Braine for the movies, wonderfully well.) In many ways, it was the English sense, nervous of their own nation who was his real contemporary, far more than their consciously ethnic Jewish Americans. He shares with Braine and Asch and Shapiro and Bradbury and Lodge and Simon Gray a billion-year-old, self-mocking sound—well read but frightened of seeming pretentious, always to outstep or self-consciously poetic language, and with them, too, he shared a willingness to render life as it is without trying to make more of it than can be made. In a form of heroic realism, deliberately constrained of obvious ambivalence, rooted in a desire not to bite into it, to make fun of petty grandeur by refusing to transcend oneself (This Englishness, very different from provincial Anglophobia, was still manifest after he came home his last published book was an outlier).

And yet—and though I am perhaps a Shabbat Street thrower to say it, still I be-

lieve it to be true—it seems to me that he achieved something larger as a novelist than his English contemporaries mostly did. There was a small subject, the thinking of English, as given, and its optimism and the range of its writing, and that shrinkage was present in their smallest of tone, and of subject. (Larkin was the one of their number who really convinced when you are writing about the walls closing in on you, it is good to be sitting in a small room.) Although the last thing in the world he would have imag-

HE HAD REGARD FOR BELLOW AND ROTH, BUT ALSO AN AMUSED FEELING ABOUT THEIR INSISTENT LANGUISHNESS, THEIR GRANDIOSITY



ine of the Claw James generation and particularly with the Caribbean VS. Napaal. (A House for Mr. Braine could have been a Richler novel, as weather-wise so deigns-older.) Richler had, by luck, a larger subject than his English contemporaries, and, though he would have chuckled anything so pretentious as a Big Theme, he had one: the transformation of a post-colonial culture as post-modernist, the comedy of emergence from a cultural cringe at the price of vulgarity in cultural assertion. It was not exactly the usual Canadian subject—survival, the play between the vast nature and minor signs of human presence—but in its urban Jewish specificity it was in many ways more truly universal. Provincial innocence was what he hated, but postcolonial innocence was also the source of his comedy, particularly the comedy of how, by insisting on being either provincial or narrow, one was usually both. Where the American or Jewish novelists were American or Jewish as American, Chicago being in his August March preface—said could say

them to a whole literature, to Melville and Wharton as much as to their parents' jokes. Richler, like the Australian and Caribbean writers, had first to show that what he was writing about existed at all. He had to show that a language and love existed before he could stretch it to anyone else's tradition.

The same, dequency too that he shared with Asch and Braine was therefore filled in his writing to a larger audience—he had to write about a city (and country) that didn't quite know it was one, about the manners

and habits for absurdity, a need to get this style of absurdity exactly right—that made his last fiction, and particularly his last masterpiece, Solomon Gursky Was Here, someone in ways usually unavailable to narrow selection in Solomon Gursky, the megade Braine-Melville Jew is also mythological as a Native American and later so that the life of the little language and the narrow room, each of them is suspiciously tied to the mystery of the two lands above. This is what makes the book, for this reader, the closest thing we have to a truly great Canadian novel. Richler, therefore, was not a small writer, not a secondary figure. But he was not a clustered writer either. Like Nagard and James he wrote, of necessity, a lot of journalism, some of it was written as a way to make money, the most reasonable of writerly reasons. But most of it he took dead seriously, because it was a



THE WRITER Gord with Ted Kotcheff, who directed the film version of Gord's novel

way of accumulating clearly themes that his senses in an art would only allow him to dramatize, ambigiously, in his novels. His journalism was good-humoured, witty, acerbic, and above all observant. He had no need for theory, but he had an eye for folly as good as any writer of his time, and he put it down, sometimes profusely. He became famous, I suppose, but the writers should be notorious—for his attack on Quaker nihilism and on the language line that he fought with it. In his respect, it is possible that, though he misunderstood his targets, they also misunderstood him. He was not primarily against a Quaker moralism; that was what alienated and frightened him, but against a narrow utilitarian, which he already knew too well. By gibbering and language, he did not know the Jewish Canadian world that surrounded his subjects as well as he might have. He misread in their nihilism the same stubborn provincialism disguised as

"pride" and "identity" that exasperated him in his St. Urban Street past. It was not that he ever witnessed the absurdity of the language laws or the humiliating innocence they revealed, it was that at times he saw them too accurately through the lens of an exasperated Anglophobe, rather than seeing how much they revealed the same pattern of ethnic insecurity, gaudious over-earnest and provincialism that he had chased so easily in his own neighborhood.

He was above all, in everything he wrote, including his polemics, a reformer, not a show-off or dare-devil. He was not an artist who boasted of his sensitivity—I can no more imagine him teaching "Creative Writing" than fighting bulls—but a writer,



THE WRITER Gord with Ted Kotcheff, who directed the film version of Gord's novel

HE'D HARDLY HAVE IMAGINED HIMSELF AS A THIRD WORLD WRITER; STILL HIS AFFINITIES ARE WITH THE OTHER COMMONWEALTH WITS

though and thought, who hated everything pretentious and academic and false in the literary world yet who had an unshakable reverence for literature. He believed in books, wanted to write one great one, and did, a provincial boy determined to live by writing, he became a cosmopolitan man who had. He loved his family, loved by his wife, and left behind a book that will live. It's hard to imagine anyone, in any city, doing more. ■

Excerpted from *Melville Richler: Was Here* (October 2006) by permission of Madison Press Books. Copyright 2006.

More Melville: Cockburn is being made into a movie musical, a four-hour musical based on St. Urban's Harem as in production, and the current version of Jacob Two Two is now running in the U.S. on NBC.

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BRITISH POLICE OFFICERS with their dogs: A news item reported that the U.K. was having to import "more motivated" foreign pooches

celebrated culture in Oldbourne men is intended to go years for shooting with intent to kill but says he's a big fan of basketball great Larry Bird and would rather serve 33 (Bird's jersey number), which the judge grants him. The effect of a celebrated outcast on celebrities is even greater after reading an inimitable whodis the fake rumour that he "collects masonries," novelist Douglas Coupland decides to start, as collecting masonries, because "I thought, like, wow, what a great thing to collect." Truth may be stranger

reality) Britten complains when her son is served with an ASBO—one of the Blair government's Anti-Social Behaviour Orders—on the grounds that he's not due to be taken for another three months. On the other hand, like most British youths, he'll probably deserve one in another decade and a half and, given his intelligence and such of the bureaucracy, it seems easier to track it with the birth certificate.

And here's one that gave me a worse headache the more I thought about it. An Ottawa parishioner says he may have to abandon his prize pen-handling real estate on a downtown street corner because he's been pulled down by officials from the pen-handlers' union. But then we're told that these guys are fakes from a phony pen-handlers' union, not the real pen-handlers' union. Did I read that right? There's apparently a real pen-handlers' union which exists to protect workers' rights? Et, hang on, real workers' rights. If the union-regulated real work contracts aren't honored, the members will presumably walk off the job and stand around on the sidewalk. No, wait, they'll walk off the sidewalk... No, let's try again. When you think about it, the fake pen-handlers' union, pen-handling genuine pen-handlers and doing nothing to return for the dues they raise, is surely truer to the spirit of the metaphor.

As readers may have noticed, I'm partial to this space to the big-theme epic canvas books. But with eerie precision John Robson's collection of essays and rumors, fables and myths is as reliable a fever chart of the times as the thickest stuff with the footnotes. And, of course, as with Kurenn's "Oddly Enough?" column, it wouldn't be a heavy quirky gag line without a few windy liberations. In an article, issue helpfully explains his father's attitude to the byline name: "Marc is not based in Islam, but to get enjoyment from it, he's named." In that case, why not keep the Precious Pits at home and just drop a ton of Cat Coo on the Hindu Kudu? ■

MACLEAN'S BESTSELLERS

COMPILED BY ERIN EDWARDS

Fiction LAST WEEK (AFTER DELETED)

1. **THE VIEW FROM CASTLE ROCK** 2.00
by Alice Munro
2. **THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE** 1.00
by Mary Lavin
3. **THE THIRTEENTH TALE** .00
by Cressida Cowell
4. **MORAL DISORDER** 6.00
by Margaret Atwood
5. **THE BIRTH HOUSE** by Ann Morley 10.00
6. **THE FRIENDS OF HEIDER FORTUNE** 5.00
by David Adams Richards
7. **HIS OWN SONG** by John Le Carré 6.00
8. **THE GOSPEL OF PARADISE** 9.00
by Willem Verelsteden
9. **THE ROAD** by Cormac McCarthy .00
10. **SUITE PRIMAVERA** 4.00
by John McEwan

Non-fiction

1. **STATE OF DEBIL: BUSH BY NAME** 1.00
PART II by Eric Woodward
2. **CITIZEN OF THE WORLD** .00
by John English
3. **HEART MATTERS** 7.00
by Adrienne Cleland
4. **NOBODY IN CHINA** 9.00
by Margaret MacKinnon
5. **THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S GATE** .00
by Adam Gopnik
6. **THE GOD DELUSION** .00
by Richard Dawkins
7. **BAY OF SPIRITS** by Farley Mowat 6.00
8. **THIS IS MY COUNTRY, WHAT'S YOURS?** 0.00
by Noah Richman
9. **I FEEL BAD ABOUT MY HEED** 7.00
by Mary Dalton
10. **THE WAY IT WORKS** 1.00
by Robin Barak

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Penhandler Dennis Pettigrew complains of dissatisfaction by the penhandlers' union

than fiction, but the fiction about Coupland was way cooler than the truth.

To be sure, there are stories that seem to perform the important role of a Coupland: the 17th-generation decides to abolish the 17th Administration of Culture, which forbade the mixing of coffee and sheep (as a protest against Starbucks was planning to do that in the week's special, for us books is even machismo. All human life is here, even if it's not here yet, a woman in pasta

BY WILLIAM D. JOHNSON

And Higgins reports down as a regular Canadian—casual, down-to-earth, self-deprecating. He doesn't seem like the kind of guy who would subscribe to a sensitive religion founded on the notion that we've all been orphaned with the souls of space aliens who were blown to bits 70 million years ago and were flavored by hydrogen bombs detonated in volcanoes. Yet, Higgins is a Scientologist. Unlike Terse Crutche, he doesn't want to talk about it. But he's happy to talk about a rare case study that seems only slightly less remote: that of a high school dropout from London, Ont., who has become the hottest new singer in L.A. (Lifelong, after 25 years of churning out "Lifelong," Higgins' hit can't get over in London). "You know, it can't get over in London," says Higgins, "but it's already carried it down to your head," he says. "Because it does. Every single day it could and does. You start to believe you're good, you see you are and you're not."

There is a chance you would be all too quick to agree. Many critics felt that O'Keefe's directorial debut, did not deserve an upset victory over *Rebel Without a Cause* in the Oscars—and that a unreliable script, slipping into out-of-control, stretched-of-TV-wag air. (Remember negotiating the Miles Teller/Hughes is the first person in history to write back-to-back best picture winners. The first two films he wrote, Clint Eastwood's *Million Dollar Baby* (2004) and *Gran Torino* (2008), won a total of seven Academy Awards. And this week marks the release of another film he scripted for Eastwood that has Oscar written all over it: *Flags of Our Fathers* is the first of two movies Eastwood has produced with Steven Spielberg about the 1945 battle of Iwo

Japs in the Second World War (Lerner from *Two Japs*, due out in February, explores the battle from the Japanese point of view)

Haggis has a knack for arming character dramas with controversial issues. In *Millions* (Dolby Digital), it was culture-shock. Crack cocaine found a full flock of nasal stereotypes. *Flags of Our Fathers* is a withering assault on American flagolatry that has some contemptuous poetry resonating in a country at war: it shows how the American flag was defiled as a counterforce currency in a propaganda campaign designed to boost winning support for troops fighting overseas. With the next film he's up

'IN HOLLYWOOD YOU CAN WALK AROUND NAKED BUT IF YOU MAKE MONEY THEY'RE GOING TO SAY THE NICEST THINGS ABOUT YOU'

to direct. The Valley of Elah, Hagga will attack the Iraq war head-on—again with a hand from Eastwood, who, despite being a Republican, helped him get financing. Elah also planning to shoot a film based on Against All Enemies, Richard A. Clarke's expose of White House bungling in the war on terror.

biologist, left-wing activist and mammal protégé of a conservative boss. Higgins is a walking contradiction. And just when you think you've got him pegged, he looks out *The Last King*, a fiery ode to an Italian-lore Henry, then craps next month's *Caesar* Royale, an attempt to give the 1937 franchise a job of Virginia. When the blood producers approached him, "I thought they were out of their f---ing minds," says Higgins. "Why would they want me? I thought I'd either reanimate the goodness or destroy it forever. So it's a crapshoot. I approached it in the simplest and least asked questions of the

proponent: Libe, what's with Bond and women?

Sitting in a hotel suite during the Toronto International Film Festival, Huggins is spent after a strangely contemplative chapter. He has lost his voice. "This is weird, I don't know what's gotten me," he says. Of course not. Scenarists believe men illustrate are psychomorphs. Huggins has a warm, engaging smile, and his eyes that beam confidence and clarity. But he will seem to betch the self-doubt that comes with his Canadian background, and his naivety. "The lovely thing about being a writer," he says, "is the page tells you you're not that good. No matter what I did last year, or the year before, this sucks."

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Higginsonally. "I didn't know what the hell to do with it. It took me a long time to figure out why I should write a war movie as a form of war. But Clint didn't want a bullshit John Wayne movie. He didn't use the word 'bullshit', he doesn't swear. But he didn't want a flagwaving, cheer-pounding kind of movie."

Two Jews was a vicious brawl that left 26,000 Americans and 13,000 Japanese dead on a barren island a third the size of Manhattan. It was immortalized by Joe Rosenthal's photograph of U.S. soldiers raising a flag on a conquered hilltop only five days into a month-long siege. *Flags* tells the story of the three surviving flag raisers—Doc Bradley (Ryan Phillippe), Rene Gagnon (Jack Brad Bird) and Iwo Hayes (Aden Young)—who were brought home to rear as poster boys in a desperate drive to sell war bonds.

Circulating between the horizons of battle and the hypocrisy of gross wealth, the

SCENES FROM FLA22 It's about the cost of fame and all that—there were 18-, 19-, 20-year-old boys. And that's what's happening in *you*.

move offers hard evidence that the first (and last) casualty of war is truth. The incident in the photograph was a sham. The flag was used to replace one that was raised down after a high-ranking officer demanded it as a souvenir. The three men cast as officials became felt fraudsters. And after their bits of celebrity, two ended up as discards of the American Dream—most famously Hyman, who died of exposure in 1995, a sad circumstance of a children's artist.

There's no doubt about "the cost of war and the cost of love," says Hughes. "These were boys—18, 19-, 22-year-old boys. And that's what's happening in Iraq." His script performs double duty while unspooling away the myths of heroism, as heroes become sacrifice on the battlefield. Flippin' ends with a montage of aerial photographs from two films—which serve like freeze frames of moments we've just seen disintegrate in *Barbarian's* stark, desaturated footage. The movie delivers a strong

statement about the power of an image. "Photography can change the world," says Haggis, arguing that war is more spin-controlled than ever. "We're not being shown photographs of dead Americans in Iraq. What the f--- is that? What would have happened if we didn't see the picture of the little girl covered in napalm running down the street, or the Viet Cong being massacred with a pencil?"

With his next movie, *In the Valley of Elah*, Jagges seems determined to conjure those absent images of Iraq. Starring Tommy Lee Jones and Charlize Theron, it's about a father looking for his son, a young American soldier who goes MIA in his first week home from

Enghed, Huggs chopped the project around to the studio, but no one would touch it. "I sent it to Clint," Huggs explains. "He said, 'That's tough material.' I said, 'But it's the truth of what's happening there.' And he said, 'Yeah, we should tell it.' Clint took it to the head of Warner Bros. He said, 'The kid's got something he wants to do that he's really passionate about.'"

When Eastwood went to bat for him, Flagg had just to "service Oscar gold with 13 lines. *Dollar Baby*" "I was a subway driver," he says. "With *Crash*, it was detrimental to it each day came to the project. Now my state is worth something. I don't know how much, but something." Yet no matter who you are, Hollywood is reduction: to make character dramas. "Reading are more comfortable spending \$100 million on a big action piece and losing their shirt. And you have to really push to get a movie made that is critical of the current administration."

For in the Valley of Elak, a fictionalised version of a true story, Hagen will see "backshots from footage the missing soldier shot with a cellphone in Iraq." The phone got fried in the desert," he explains. "So they're piecing the degraded images back together. I've framed it as a mystery, but the mystery at the end will be that there's no mystery. I don't know if people are going to be pissed off."

If that sounds reminiscent of *Kiss Up*, it's no accident. Michelangelo Antonioni's 1966 mystery about a finch photographer who traces evidence of a murder in a Pacific had

SHENNA MILLER
owner of A&E, was pitched from a Pittsburgh, Pa. radio having ID Penny Pafford, owner of that Shenno ignored a request for ID when on air and was asked to leave. Shenno allegedly told her a host once she called. She was a departing

England, hoping to become a fashion photographer. Returning broke to his hometown, he studied cinematography at *Technische Hogeschool* and worked in his father's construction business. He did write some disastrous plays for a theatre owned by his father, who sponsored his move to Los Angeles. There, he gradually built a career working for TV, on shows such as *Face of Love*. One South, thirty something and LL Strosser. Father to four children, aged eight to 28, he now lives with his second wife, Deborah, in Santa Monica, Calif., and turns out screenplays in a prolific rate.

Paul Gross, who worked with Higgins on *Dave Matthews*, says he's "single-minded, cool as a cucumber about his own work—and that's combined with this prodigious natural ability. He has almost limitless coverage in writing. And he's quite sure. He's happy. He's got this dark streak, which I like."

After all these years of watching TV for hours, and his sudden flash of Oscar glory, Magna may still be searching for that elusive glimpse of emotional escape he saw in *After the Sunset*. "I don't know if I'm looking for a movie that occurs for the first time in his [unorthodox style of] storytelling," *Shogun's* one puzzle (that's still as involved as the mystery in *After U*). How can Magna be a disbeliever while still conforming to the dictates of Scientology? "I don't really conform to any set of beliefs," he explains. "I have my own. If someone asks if I'm a Scientologist, I say yes. Anything other than that, nobody does but bear recognizing them. I'm rather uncomfortable talking about it."

So what's unser unheimlich in Hollywood, being a leftist or a screenologist? Bing goes laughing. "I don't care about the label anyone puts on me. In Hollywood you can be a member of the craziest, wildest thing and walk around stark naked with a fig leaf, but if you make money for a corporation, they're going to say the nastiest things about you." ■

ON THE WEB: visit Eriq La Salle's film *John Q.* at www.mgm.com or *The Hot Chick* at www.fox.com

548 第 2 章 线性方程组与线性方程组的解法

Love's Sienna Miller, star of *AKA*, was pitched from a Pittsburgh, Pa., bar last week for not having ID. Penny Folino, owner of Young's Tavern, said that Sienna ignored a request for ID when she ordered a vodka tonic and was asked to leave. Sienna allegedly threw a tantrum, ripping off her hat and shouting, "I am a famous actress!" Sienna vigorously denies the barroom Baptes. Folino "I can tell you one thing, I'm not a fan—she's N."

Source: www.battelle.org

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taste



"When I order a pig, I want the whole thing, you know? I eat the whole fricken' thing! Even the skin will be cooked in a tasty crop."

These chefs butcher your order

High-end restaurants are ordering—and using—the whole animal, 'every bit and bob'

BY JAMILLA CUTHBERT • It was the morning when the butchery chef Anthony White "When I order a pig, I want the whole thing, you know? I eat the whole fricken' thing!" The executive chef of Toronto's Canoe restaurant joins an increasing by popular group of high-end chefs who, trained in the art of butchery, take a holistic approach to preparing meat. Their kitchen expand as needed to allow for breaking down beasts, from baby lamb to full grown pigs. Tender loins, racks and other prime cuts are headlined on the menu, but many more parts of the animal—"just about every bit and bob," says White—are incorporated and also show themselves on the plate.

Chefs who butcher work with a wide variety of raw materials, from cod to haddock to fish to fish. They are part of a revival to counter the industrialized world of processed foods, which includes the supermarket packages of fresh bread in plastic bags. "You see a lot of it in composite restaurants," says Mike Henderson, and butcher at Canoe. "Meats are cut by a computer in big plants and out come pre-packaged steaks and other cuts uniformly weighed and ready to cook." Time and labor save a restaurant's costs when meats are broken down as well, but the flip side is the threat of no-meat principles—and ingredients—that form the backbone of many restaurants. Chefs who adopt the discipline of butchery apply a hands-on approach often better than a clipboard—and the promise of more flavor.

David Wynn is chef and co-owner of Quarry House in Canton, Ala. Although his customers "don't want to pay beef prices for pork," Wynn pays the premium when he can afford it and orders a 300-lb pig from a family farm in Pennsylvania. The country that belongs in

about 150 lb of meat and bones. Out of one animal, Quarry gets hams from the hind legs, headcheese from the cheeks, meat, tail and hocks, and from the belly bacon and pancreas, smoked in house. The list goes on. "It's potentially better than conventional pork," he says. "Putting a face to a product—no knife when that animal was raised and to tell the story at the table is a great thing."

A handful of international chefs are working in a similar vein, among them French Henderson of Michelin-starred restaurant St. John in London, England, who wrote the influential cookbook *The Whole Beast: Nose to Tail Eating*. Henderson's position for lamb's brains is a hard sell, but Calgary's Oliver Café is trying to get the lamb's head as part of the weekly order of whole lamb (the head isn't usually included). Chef Scott Polakovic is inspired by sous-chef Steve Stern, who recently returned after seven years of cooking at St. John. "We're now learning more in the kitchen about brains," says Polakovic, who doesn't have a menu item yet, but is working on it. In the meantime, he pushes standard boundaries with dishes that include marinated and grilled lamb heads, cooked redheads and steel fish.

Butchering fish is as essential part of any apprenticeship in the cutting area. Chef Edward Tasse at Vancouver Island's Sealee

Hatchery House says, "Getting the fish in whole makes for better handling of the product," compared with "pieces that arrive in a 50-lb box that was thrown in the back of a truck." Working with a wild-caught B.C. salmon, Tasse says the fish is "used just like some livers—in pizza and spring rolls. Oh, and we share it and serve it like fish pie." The skin is rendered for crackling, raw sea gashes fresh roasts, fish flowers stock and fillets are served in their entirety.

In the gleaming Canoe kitchen, White says he has capable hands at his disposal and added skilled piglet, complete with roasts. He smokes the piglet on an rack and begins. First off is the neck. Then a tenderloin, which requires a chef to slice off one piece. The sensory lesson continues as the kidneys are cut, the saddle is separated from the rest of the rib, including the rack and the shoulder blade. Finally, off comes the tail, then the head. And the skin! It will be used with ribs and cooked to a tender crisp.

Butchery is barely touched on in most cooking schools. "It's frightening for cooks to deal with whole animals," says Polakovic. Stephen Alexander, owner of Toronto's Canoe Farm-to-table butcher shop, supplies restaurants such as Canoe with rare breeds and quality meats. "Suckling, a whole lot of chefs are calling me," he says. "They're all saying the same kind of thing that I make themselves truly great chefs, they should learn the art of butchery." ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL... DESSERT NOW

At Hebert's, Tokyo's chocolate stars don't know for its quick selection, is home to "Snowflake Village," which sells snow for dessert. A very fine form of ice, it's served with no flavor, so-lying on its "mouth feel" for its appeal. It's also decorated with sweet sauces such as mango, and sold as "molded and silver trans-ware." Culturally unique in many ways, the Japanese actually go out the yellow snow.



'SCOTT'S' LATTES can be zapped in the microwave. Toxic tests show no difference with the real thing. Not that we'd know...

A latte people stick it to Starbucks

Customers order one thing, then 'upgrade' with free condiments. Baristas are boiling.

BY JULIA ROSEWELL • My grandfather was Scottish, so for years I've been standing in line at Starbucks, and, in the moments before the cashier takes my order, torturing my self. The mental anguish. The guilt. Not for the impoverished bean picker in Ecuador. For all I know, that guy couldn't be happier. His wife loves him. The kids are great, and even if he isn't fulfilled I can't really do much for him right now. I've got my own financial worries. Looked at the price of a Starbucks latte today? I'm sorry, but I refuse to pay it.

So I master the courage and say double espresso, please. "In a large cup," I add, or cups by the dozen if we stopped making eye contact. I'm grilling out times from the concentration of my will: I don't want to look at the cashier because I know what she's thinking. People are so petty. What's her problem? "Oh, no," I say, trying to normal someone that surge from shame to embarrassment to anger. It's as if I'm in a black ice rink and have passed the line to note. These are desperate times.

She calls my order. The barista looks at me. Shrug, good, perfect. I want to leave. I pay for my espresso, extra, about \$3.50, and walk toward the condiment counter. Thinking I might be snubbed or worse, I sweeten my espresso and fill my cup with delicious cream. Valid. A double-shot latte has half the caffeine most people want. I am a man like a fox, but I hate myself. I hope never to see those people again when I come back here tomorrow.

The barista pulls, that again for years, and now suddenly someone's come up with a name for it. The phony latte. It's all over the Internet. An "infomaniac" wrote, reported the Chicago Tribune last week, called for beans like me. I guess, low-life linked to coffee. A nameless barista told the paper that

about five per cent of customers cheat the Starbucks system by making ghetto latte. Makers of the "fake" drinks "have become the focus of a chat up," reported the Tribune. A chat-up that's employed across that roasts with propaganda from the "it's wrong" camp posted against us on MySpace.

Wikipedia rushed to explain: "The combination of posting addresses offered by some establishments have led to the practice of ghetto latte (sometimes called boating latte), whereby some customers use the free milk and other condiments to convert a cheaper latte to a more expensive one." Hello. We're not converting a cheaper latte to a more expensive one. We're ordering espresso and designing latte from scratch. And hey, I've just learned I can broaden my repertoire from first and last. The Tribune reports, "These customers use their cups to the condiment counter... pour through milk into the cup to nearly fill it, then take it to the office for a zapping in the microwave. In a side-by-side taste test, tasters noted that the two were virtually the same."

On a site called Starbucksgossip.com, an anonymous barista blogged her grievance: "She and her boy got caught in and both ordered [drinks they planned to 'top up']... We just happened to not have the half-and-half out at the condiment bar. When she ordered... I immediately said, 'Milk, what

kind of dairy would you like?' She then said, 'Oh, I'd add it myself, thank you.' Now my problem with this is, her drinks cost \$4.82. The exact drinks as we have it on our menu... are called food Quad Venti Shave Latte and an Iced Triple Grande Latte. The cost of those two drinks is \$3.54."

"Oh please," writes someone logging on as MacGuff. "If Starbucks really cared about ghetto lattes, and the condiment being used, they'd hand out those little pop-packs of creamer. A few supply baristas just give it into their hands they own the company."

In Toronto, on trendy Queen Street, two Starbucks that employees weigh in. "Very annoying," says Oliver Barford. "See, I would never do that personally because I have morals. I believe in paying for what you use." On the other hand, he says, pointing at his co-worker Jessica Gaborita, "There are some people who would do that. Like her," Jessica is a student at Starbucks is overpriced, therefore, Jessica reasons, she's in favour of ghetto lattes, and now that she's known about it, she'll tell friends. "No, but I'd be mad if I worked there," she sighs. "At the very least I'd be like, 'I know what you're doing!'"

But Starbucks isn't mad. Head office is said this statement: "We provide condiments to our customers so they can make their drinks to their liking... We treat our customers to make the choices that are right for them." (That's when people like the high road. They sound like my mother.)



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT... ROYAL PRINCE-A-RASCAL

Princess Michael of Kent is helping an auction of items from her "home" in Stouffville, and some of the staff could be like first "in." Observers are surprised at the dubious quality of some of the merchandise—and Princess Michael's gumpion in taking to make money from it. Among the decidedly undistinguished items is a pair of ornate candlestick holders, expected to fetch about \$40. One of the holders is broken in four places.

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In Calgary, CEOs, oilmen and socialites wait six months for a session with Tyrrell Clarke

Clarke, who charges \$125 an hour, works with travel cards, but says she also has help from "guides" who only she can see and feel. "The cards are just a tool and a gateway to me. It's like I hear very simple sentences from the guide. When someone comes in, it's like I'm watching a movie in my head," she explains. "When my guides direct me, and I start to know [clients'] emotional stuff, it's

Twelve years ago, Clarke started to sex clients in Red Deer, Alta., but soon moved to Calgary. "Oh, Red Deer I would like, 'Can please someone have an affair?' It was so boring." She has never had to advertise for business in Calgary—clients come to her either through word of mouth or are referred by the other

"People need me and I can't leave them."
And who does the city's most sought-after
psychic go to for her own psychic needs?
"I'm friends with a few psychics. We'll play
the 'Yase and Gabe game.' They ask me three
questions and I'll answer. Then I ask them
three questions." ■

The daughter of recently deceased Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin has overcome grief and is appearing in her own TV series, *Wild Australia's GRT*. Starting with a tribute to the eight-year-old dead at her father's funeral, Bindi has been constantly in the public eye. Last week, working on her series, she did an item witha truck-load of beer, and like her father, performed with complete aplomb. Said an adoring sports producer: "She's a chip off the old block."



The news came a couple of days after North Korea's claimed nuclear detonation: the country's No. 1 leader, Kim Jong Il, said his country would conduct yet more tests if the United States continued what he called "hostile" actions.

The shocking part wasn't the provocative nature of the remarks by North Korea's No. 2 leader. The shocking part was the revelation that North Korea actually has a No. 2 leader.

It can't be easy being Kim. Two in a one-Kim country. It can't be easy being a second banana in a government that's all about one big fish (no pun intended).

Kim Jong Il is referred to as Dear Leader, Great Leader, Dear General, The Sun of the 21st Century and, on special occasions, Da Ma. Kim Yang Nam is referred to as Kim Yang Nam. When it comes to the exercise of power, Kim Jong Il can command arbitrary executions at his whim. Kim Yang Nam, on

the other hand, is restricted by diaspotic convention to ordering the occasional spouting of sometimes a patois

According to his official biography, Kim Jong Il's birth was foretold by a swallow and heralded by the appearance of a double rainbow over a nearby mountain and a new star in the heavens. According to information I found on the Internet because he doesn't ap-

The humor part of Kim Tso's day is taken up with the meal dates and obligations of high-ranking (but not quite high-enough-ranking) members of the diplomatic elite: the spontaneity, the exaggeration, difference, and always the back rubs. "Dear Dear Leader's food to make sure I haven't been poisoned. By on Dear Leader's newest sunglasses to make sure they give off his green light." "Scarface meets Carol-Channing" v/b Laugh-

little too loudly at Dear Lande's unique attempts at a heterosexual romance? "I'm looking at the laundry, and I notice that only one sock came out of the dryer. One sock! So I hid my laundry server's beautiful bottom!" And, most telling of all, fight scenes while Dear Lande's good-but-lazy character is what's really going down on Lord. I mean, it's season three and the dude still thinks the show might be purgatory! Hello, Kim Jong Il. 2004 called, it wanted its slavery back!

On the official website of the Democratic

When animals in the Central Zoo breed, Kei One gets the credit. (It was joyfully reported recently that a lioness had "brought forth nine kittens"—and Dear Leader was praised, though not presumably for any "hands on" role in the pregnancy.)

Not that it's all bad: Kim Jong-un does get a cool title—President of the Politburo of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea. This is an important job that qualifies him for such perks as not being killed for now.

And frankly, the job itself doesn't mean all



His boss orders executions on a whim. He can only order the occasional spanking, and pizza.

People's Republic of Korea (a state whose equality suggests North Korea is poised to enter the exciting, high-tech era of the Commodore 64), the short version of Dear Leader's life story is 160 pages long, and constitutes an unflinching mackdunking of the world's most complacent literary adjudicators. Kim Jong-il's life story is shorter—by approximately 160 pages.

And don't get Kim Yoo started on the media. A recent headline from the Korean Central News Agency—an old-school goa-pajunda site like Yoo or Fox News—declared Kim Jong Il Absolutely Trusted by World People! The story noted that Kim One has performed "outstanding ideological and theatrical exploits which no other politicians and great men in history can ever match."

The same day, the agency reported that Kim Jong Il "met and had a friendly talk" with the delegation of the Ugandan National Women's Council, who noted to Kim Jong Il that Kim Il Sung was a "great man" whose "wise leadership" has enabled North Korea to develop into "an invincible country... where the people are in truly extended peace."

When a nuclear test possibly goes off successfully maybe, Kim Jong-ils the credit

that gratifying. To judge from what's written about him, Kim Yong Nam's primary task appears to be travelling internationally on behalf of Dear Leader, who doesn't like to leave home for fear of being overthrown or misjudged in any way. Kim Two is in charge of sending "a message of greeting" to mark such important world events as the African recovery of Uganda's independence and, more recently, the 50th anniversary of Uganda's independence.

Indeed, in two has travelled to China, Indonesia, Syria and Cuba, bringing such messages as "Dear Leader Kim Jong Il offers you happiness greetings of peace!" and "Do you plan to have a dinner roll in your pocket-I haven't eaten for four days on account of the famine." In June, Kim Jong Il did travel to the United Nations but during a stopover in Pittsburgh the warship searched by report security, at which point he decided to go back to North Korea. Easy to understand why. The chaos, the humiliations—Kim Jong Il doesn't need to endure the hassle of travel to get treated that way. ■

ON THE WEB: For Scott Paschuk's take on the news of the day, visit his audioblog www.paschuk.ca/audioblog

BEAN

1993-2008

After being found at the dump, a stray became a neighbourhood favourite and a big-screen star

Bean, a 1.5a Stringbean, was born in Shelbyville, N.S., a hamlet. Legible sentences on the Atlantic coast. 150th anniversary of Halifax. His parents are unknown, as is his birth date, although it was probably in the late winter of 1993. When he was about six months old, his owners, a woman and two siblings, all black and white, left a garbage bag and towel under a cheap table near the town dump. In the spring of 1994, he was found by Louise Lonsdale, a hydrologist, who linked out on a mission: the town was closing the dump and Lonsdale wanted to see if it had installed devices to monitor a groundwater. "I just stopped my bike and was looking through the fence and I heard this little meow," Lonsdale says. "I made wrong noises back and, lo and behold, three kittens came out of the ripped garbage bag. One of the three trotted right out under the fence and started meowing around my legs. The other two ran off."

Lonsdale and her husband Andy Blackmore, also a hydrologist who works in Halifax, lived in an old house on Duck Street in Shelbyville's waterfront district, near a number of cafes and restaurants and the Blue Cow Bilingual. They already had a Maine coon cat, Pepper, and two dogs, a male mink named Willow and an English pointer named Tache. "I went home and said I found the sweet little kitten and Andy said, 'No more cats,'" Lonsdale remembers. "So, for about a week, I kept taking back and feeding him at the dump." Andy released. Lonsdale went to pick up the kitten in her Dodge van. "It was easy," she says. "It wasn't like catching a wild kitten. It was like, 'Hi. I love you. Let me come home with you.'"

Lonsdale, who works from home, took Bean (whose she originally dubbed Stringbean because he was so thin) to the town's vet, Mike Stone. The vet said her Bean was suffering from extreme malnutrition. He said that work with a hard start, he might not live a long life. After he had his shots and was treated for fleas and was neutered, Bean and what Lonsdale calls "his owner," Pepper, attached as a shamanic summer in their Duck Street neighbourhood. "It was so easy because it was shut down for the movie," Lonsdale says. Outside her house, Terry Moore and Gary Oldman and Robert Downey were shooting *The Spanish Letter*. The gregarious Bean soon became a favourite of the cast and crew and had the name of the cast-

although Lonsdale was asked to remove his red nylon collar because it was linked with the look of the film. In subsequent years, Bean had other collars, but Lonsdale always worried about him getting caught and strangled, and he soon became such a fixture in the neighbourhood, he didn't need to wear any identification.

Betsy Stockland, the office manager of the Shelburne County Museum, about a block and a half away from Lonsdale and Andy's house, calls the cat "My darling Bean." She got to know him "as soon as he was allowed out on a chaperoned, so to speak," she says. "Duck Street is a little one-lane street that goes by the museum complex, and Bean would go from backyard to backyard. You just left the door open and he would come in and visit you." At the Berwick cafe nearby, owner Monique Fillmore says Bean was a regular back door moocher. "He would sit on the doorstep and give us a little cry. He always came for treats—bitty morsels of bacon and tuna," she says. When the weather was fine, he would spend the day with her partners outside on their Adirondack chairs. When Lonsdale and Andy went away, Monique would go over to the house and eat in him. "He was a happy little thing," she says. He was also fearless. Lonsdale tells stories of Bean straddling "like a Spartan, and once being bitten by a dogowner's dog he nuzzled while it was sleeping. Andy says he was an insurance fisherman who liked to scoop squid out of the harbor and gave them to pieces on the lawn.

On Friday, Sept. 1, Bean was lying in one of his favourite spots—under Andy's Jeep, whose passenger often stopped to pet him. Gloria MacIntosh, from nearby Milton, saw him and thought he was in ill health. At 12, Lonsdale admits Bean was deteriorating. He was as thin as a stick, with a patchy coat and cysts that had oozed from the dog bite. Gloria, who has 15 cats living in her house, says, "I made the decision." She picked him up and took him to Mike Stone's successor, Dr. Jill Collins, one of the few people in the town of 1,013 who did not have a car. "She seemed like he was horrible," Jill says. "With horrible cuts, if they are not going and healthy, they are not adoptable." At about 4 p.m., Jill euthanized him and put his body in a freezer. Lonsdale and Andy, heartbroken, buried him down the next day and buried him in their yard. BY BARBARA EIGHTON



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